

New group emerges in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — A hitherto unknown group calling itself "the Mujahideen (crusaders) Brigades Organisation" said Monday it planted a bomb which blew up near an Israeli military bus in southern Lebanon Sunday. An Israeli military spokesman, who reported the attack south of the port of Sidon, said no one was injured in the blast. The claim was made in a typewritten letter delivered to news agency offices in Beirut, Israeli forces, who have occupied more than one third of Lebanon since last June, come under almost daily guerrilla attacks. Local media say most of these are claimed by the Lebanese National Resistance Front, an organisation believed to be made up of the remnants of Lebanese leftist and nationalist factions who fought beside Palestinian fighters against the Israeli advance last year.

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Agreement reached on Arab summit

RABAT (R) — Arab states have generally agreed to hold an extraordinary summit in Morocco, but there are differences about the date, Moroccan officials said Monday. Morocco has proposed that the summit be held in the eastern city of Fez on April 16 and 17 to discuss fresh Arab moves towards a Middle East peace settlement. A date for the meeting should be announced within the next 24 hours, the officials said.

Kreisky receives anonymous threats

VIENNA (R) — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has received several anonymous threats against his life in recent weeks, a spokesman at the chancellor's office said Monday. "There were letters and phone calls which we are taking seriously, especially after the murder of Issam Sartawi," the spokesman said, referring to the shooting in Portugal Sunday of a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation representative. "Safety measures and protection for the chancellor have been stepped up," the spokesman told Reuters.

UAE may buy Mirage 2000 jets

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will discuss buying Mirage 2000 fighter planes with French Defence Minister Charles Hernu visits Abu Dhabi in May, UAE Armed Forces Deputy Supreme Commander Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid was quoted as saying Monday. He gave no details, but said Mr. Hernu's talks would also cover other aspects of military cooperation, the Emirates news agency reported. The Mirage 2000, built by Dassault-Breguet, is a long-range fighter. The UAE's 1,500-man air force already has a number of Mirage fighter-bombers and a squadron of British Hawker Hunter fighters.

S. Yemen sends message to Syria

ADEN (R) — South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali left for Damascus Monday with a message for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Mr. Dali told reporters before leaving for the Syrian capital the message from South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Muhammad dealt with recent developments in the Middle East, the Palestinian problem and bilateral relations. He added he would also visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Queen Elizabeth to visit Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh will make an official visit to Bangladesh in November, the government announced Monday. The queen is expected to open a meeting of Commonwealth heads of government in New Delhi after the visit to Bangladesh, the announcement said.

Maer Rosenne named Israeli envoy to U.S.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli cabinet Sunday approved the appointment of Maer Rosenne as Israel's ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Rosenne, who has been Israel's ambassador in Paris, replaced Moshe Arens, the new defence minister.

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Iran-Iraq locked in fierce battle

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Monday Iranian forces had launched a major new offensive in the Gulf war and reported fierce fighting along its eastern border.

A military communique early Monday morning said the Iranians attacked in the southeastern border province of Misán late Sunday night along a 30-kilometre front.

A later communique said most of the Iranian thrust was beaten off but fierce fighting was continuing along a 10-kilometre front Monday.

Three hundred Iranians were captured while the rest of the attackers either fled or were killed in the fighting, which occurred between the border villages of Al Eila and Zubeida, it said.

"Despite the continuation of the fierce battles, we are sure that this attack will be buried the same way Iraq has buried previous attempts," the communique said.

In February the last reported Iranian offensive was launched but Iraq said its troops beat off the attack. It put Iranian casualties at over 15,000 dead and about 30,000 wounded with over 3,000 taken captive, though there has been no independent confirmation of these figures.

Baghdad asks ICRC to probe into Iranian killing of PoWs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Monday for an immediate investigation into reports that Iraqi prisoners of war (PoW) were killed in Iran last February, the Iraqi News Agency said.

The under-secretary at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Ismat Kittani, summoned the Baghdad representative of the International

A later communique issued Monday by Iraq said that the latest Iranian offensive have been completely repulsed, inflicting heavy casualties on the Iranian forces. It also reported that several senior Iranian officers were among the hundreds of captured prisoners of war.

The communique also said that Iraqi jet fighters carried out repeated raids on Iranian positions and all the planes reported safely back to their bases.

The latest Iranian attack, which began Sunday night, was a continuation of the offensive launched in February, according to a communique broadcast by Tehran Radio.

It claimed several Iranian villages, three strategic heights and a military outpost—all of them held by Iraq since the outbreak of the war in September 1980—had been recaptured.

There had been a relative lull in recent weeks in the two and a half year old war between the two Gulf neighbours.

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and asked him to report back on the result of the investigation. INA said.

The leftist Iranian opposition Mujahadeen organisation said in Paris last week that more than 20 Iraqi prisoners of war were killed and more than 70 wounded in two attacks by revolutionary guards at prison camps in Iran.

Habib returns to Mideast to revive withdrawal talks

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. mediator Philip Habib returned to Israel Monday hoping to salvage an Israeli-Lebanese agreement from the ruins of President Reagan's shattered Middle East peace plans.

Jordan's decision Sunday not to take part in the Reagan peace efforts secured to have pleased Israel, which had rejected the president's initiative when it was unveiled last September.

A senior Israeli official, speaking at the daily briefing for foreign correspondents, said the government always knew the peace plan was doomed to failure.

Israel strongly objected to Mr. Reagan's call for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The official said the government now hoped for a "more realistic" U.S. approach.

As he spoke, negotiations resumed in the Mediterranean town

of Netanya on an Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanon.

Sources close to the talks told Reuters an agreement was "coming nearer...a final draft is being discussed."

The sources, sounding more optimistic than at any time since negotiations began last December, said the last major remaining difference was over the role of South Lebanese militia leader Saad Haddad.

There were a few minor unresolved issues, including movement of goods across the border, "but we are now at the stage where detailed drafting is under way on the many agreed points," one said.

Mr. Habib, returning from consultations in Washington, is meeting Israeli leaders this week in a renewed effort to bridge the gaps. U.S. officials pointed out his

(Continued on page 3)

European aid to Ethiopia not diverted, says inquiry

BRUSSELS (R) — Food sent by the European Economic Community (EEC) to people affected by drought in Ethiopia is not being systematically appropriated to feed the army or given to the Soviet Union to repay debts, according to a community inquiry.

Officials said Monday a report drawn up by the community executive commission's aid team in Addis Ababa concluded there was no evidence to back widespread press reports of food being diverted from the starving population.

The report, compiled after an intensive two-week inquiry, will be presented to the European Parliament this week by the community's Development Commissioner Edgar Pisani.

The assembly called an emergency debate on aid to Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government after the press reports appeared.

According to the aid team—which said its analysis was backed by Western embassies in Addis Ababa and by voluntary aid groups—strict monitoring to food shipments made widespread fraud impossible.

The aid team's report said milk powder, cereals and other food shipments were closely controlled from arrival at the ports until being moved to 150 storage points and 750 distribution centres throughout Ethiopia.

It was impossible to stop occasional thefts from these stores or distribution points, but the wide dispersal of the food and a relatively sophisticated monitoring system made any large-scale diversion impossible.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses the opening session of the second conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research in Amman (Petra photo)

(Al al-Bait Foundation) at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman (Petra photo)

Hussein urges Islamic World to preserve culture and identity

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday called on all Islamic universities, and educational institutes to rally forces and coordinate efforts to "preserve the Islamic Nation's identity, guarantee its prosperity and restore its effective role in world civilisation to reach its justifiably earned position among world nations."

The King, in his opening speech of the second conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al-Bait Foundation) at the Royal Cultural Centre, said that Islam is a "faith and a way of life." He added that the Islamic faith had embraced "divine religions preceding it, and thus created the proper climate for believers in other faiths to live in security and enjoy freedom."

King Hussein pointed out that Islamic civilisation is the product of the Islamic faith, and had been considerably contributed to by non-Muslim individuals living in the Islamic World. This, the King said, testifies to the tolerant nature of the Islamic social system and civilisation towards other faiths.

"Islam by no means attempted obliterating other cultures or faiths, but on the contrary contributed to their development and utilised positive elements they contained for the general advancement of the Islamic Nation," the King said.

King Hussein stressed that Islamic civilisation "did not subdue the peoples who came under Islamic rule, which is a totally contradictory image to the colonial drive which subjected the subdued peoples to the rule of force and imposed the particular elements of the culture of the colonial powers." Such a drive, the King went on, "systematically worked at uprooting the national heritage of the subdued people; and attempted to alienate the young minds of sprouting generations with their culture and cultural legacy."

"The wake from colonialism imposed thoughts and ways of life did not last long for the newly-independent nations," the King added, "before a new invasion of enormous technological progress swept over the developing nations and their mass media."

"Cultural hegemony has become a major characteristic of our present age," King Hussein continued, "which makes it inevitable for the developing nations to protect themselves against the threat of loss of their identity and national characteristics."

The King attended the first working session of the conference, presided over by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Opening the first working session, the Crown Prince thanked the King for opening the conference despite his numerous occupations.

More than 60 delegations from all parts of the Islamic World are attending the conference.

Pym arrives today to 'assess situation'

ABU DHABI (R) — British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym will visit Jordan Tuesday to discuss its decision to abandon talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint action in Middle East peace moves, British officials said Monday.

Mr. Pym, at present in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during a Gulf tour, hoped to meet Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oasem and possibly King Hussein, the officials said.

In London, the Foreign Office confirmed that Mr. Pym would make a detour to Jordan Tuesday on the return leg of his trip. It said Britain was consulting the gov-

ernments principally involved to assess the implication of the Jordanian decision.

Foreign Office Junior Minister Douglas Hurd said later in a radio interview that Mr. Pym would meet King Hussein to discuss the peace process and to see if there was any way in which Britain could contribute.

Jordan Sunday abandoned a six-months-long effort to work out a joint position with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a Middle East settlement.

"Diplomats in Amman said it was a setback for President Reagan's initiative to bring Jordan

and the Palestinians into the peace process, which Britain has supported."

Mr. Pym visited Saudi Arabia this week and moved on to the UAE Sunday night. He had been due to return from Dubai to London Tuesday but will instead stopover in the Jordanian capital, the British officials said.

"The foreign secretary has just had talks with Saudi King Fahd and other leaders, and this is a very useful opportunity to take soundings and assess the situation in depth after what was a fairly significant development in the area," one source said.

Mubarak meets Zia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived Monday for a two-day official visit and had an informal meeting with Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. The two leaders are scheduled to have formal talks Tuesday.

President Mubarak flew from Jakarta after a Far East tour. He is the first Egyptian president to visit Pakistan for nine years. The last visit was by the late President Anwar Sadat, who came to Pakistan to attend a summit conference of the 24-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Mr. Mubarak's visit follows a period of cool relations between Cairo and Islamabad since 1978, when Egypt signed the Camp David agreement with Israel and was expelled from the OIC.

Pakistan is a strong supporter of the Arab cause in the Middle East and is a key member of OIC. Despite close ties with the United States Islamabad opposes the Camp David treaty.

Pakistani sources said Islamabad would welcome an Egyptian return to the Islamic fold but would not play an active role in bringing it about.

Officials said the two presidents would discuss bilateral and international matters, including the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Youth detained in Sartawi murder probe

LISBON (R) — Police investigating the killing of a leading Palestinian moderate in southern Portugal questioned a young English-speaking Arab Monday after detaining him in Lisbon.

Morocco's ambassador to Portugal said a Moroccan passport carried by the youth was false and that he was definitely not a Moroccan.

Earlier, police issued a statement saying the interrogation was aimed at "establishing the eventual link between a man who identified himself as Yusef Al Awad, 26, a Moroccan residing in Casablanca, and yesterday's eve-

nings in Montecorvo."

Issam Sartawi, a special envoy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the Socialist International congress, was shot dead Sunday at the Hotel Montecorvo in the southern Portuguese resort of Albufeira. His assistant was wounded.

The Arab now being questioned was detained Sunday night after taking a taxi to Lisbon from the south. Police sources said he had been staying in a hotel next to the Montecorvo and had checked out soon after the shooting.

Portuguese police have been criticised for the alleged lack of

security that enable one or more gunmen to enter the Montecorvo Hotel at which leading world politicians were attending the congress.

On Monday the police seemed confident about investigations so far.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who met Portuguese leaders in Lisbon Sunday night after the congress, was quoted Monday as saying he expected

(Continued on page 3)

King condoles Sartawi family, page 3

S. Arabia closes desalination plant

RIYADH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia ordered the temporary closure of a desalination plant drawing water from the Gulf Monday as a huge oil slick threatening eight states neared the Saudi coast.

Oil gushing from shattered Iranian wells at the head of the Gulf has produced a slick spread across 7,500 square miles, the worst pollution seen in the region.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted the Agriculture Ministry as saying King Fahd had also ordered fishing to stop in polluted areas and increased in the Red Sea.

On Sunday, helicopters spotted oil 10 miles from Al Khobar, west of Bahrain, where the des-

lination plant is sited.

The eight Gulf littoral states have been trying to persuade warring Iran and Iraq to agree on capping the wells in the war zone.

Officials in Kuwait said Monday it was still not certain whether a planned meeting of Gulf ministers to discuss the slick crisis on Wednesday would take place.

The key to stemming the flow of at least 2,000 barrels a day is an agreement between Iran and Iraq on safe conduct for repair crews.

Gulf diplomats said reports Monday of a new Iranian offensive in the war did not brighten prospects for an agreement.

All the Gulf states have installed emergency booms to pro-

tect intakes of desalination plants, which provide all drinking water in some of the desert countries.

Water experts said the plant closed by King Fahd at Al Khobar was relatively small, with a daily capacity of about 55 million gallons, supplying the nearby towns.

The world's biggest desalination plant at Jubail, 60 miles north of Al Khobar, was apparently not affected. The plant supplies up to 175 million gallons of water a day by pipeline to the capital, Riyadh.

Kuwaiti Health Minister Abdulrahman Al Awadi said he was hoping for an agreement on resuming ministerial talks, but much (Continued on page 3)

Arafat begins Swedish visit today

STOCKHOLM (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Sweden from Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Olof Palme, the Social Democratic Party announced Monday. A party spokesman said Mr. Arafat would hold talks of a general nature with Mr. Palme, known for his interest in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom and other Social Democrats. The PLO leader has officially been invited by the party rather than the prime minister, but Mr. Palme also leads the Social Democrats. Mr. Arafat's programme and the date of his stay are being kept secret and security is expected to be high following Sunday's shooting in Portugal of PLO envoy Issam Sartawi. Jewish and other political groups here also began a protest campaign when it was first suggested Mr. Arafat might come to Sweden.

PLO urges Jordan to maintain close ties

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Two senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials called on Jordan Monday to maintain ties with the PLO despite Jordan's decision Sunday to abandon joint peace moves with the organisation.

In the first public PLO reaction to the Jordanian move, Salah Khalaf, a senior adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the Jordanian announcement implied that the only tie between Jordan and the PLO was the Reagan

Middle East peace plan. "But Jordanian-PLO ties are much stronger than that," he told a news conference.

In Amman, Information Minister Adnan Abu Odh told the Jordan Times on Sunday that relations between the two sides had not been weakened and would continue as normal.

PLO offices in Jordan would continue their normal work, the PLO's Badr Forces would remain

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. pledges to continue efforts for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Sunday pledged to press on with its Middle East negotiating efforts despite the setback dealt to President Reagan's plans by the decision of Jordan not to enter expanded peace talks.

Secretary of State George Shultz said that in recently concluded talks with Jordan on joint moves for Middle East peace, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) basically demanded a return to the concept of a Palestinian

state and the presence of the PLO in all negotiations, two conditions the Reagan peace proposal had excluded.

As U.S. officials assessed the extent of the damage caused to President Reagan's Sept. 1 Middle East peace initiative, Mr. Shultz told a television interviewer:

"The key point to remember is that the president is determined to see this peace process through."

(Continued on page 3)

Cairo silent on Jordan's decision to abandon talks

CAIRO (R) — Jordan's decision to abandon talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on joint Middle East peace moves was viewed in Cairo Monday as a personal blow for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Western diplomats said the rupture of talks between Jordan and the PLO must reflect adversely on Mr. Mubarak's prestige in the Arab World.

Egyptian government officials had no immediate comment on Sunday's announcement in

Amman. With Mr. Mubarak and most of his top aides on the last leg of an Asian tour, officials left behind in Cairo were reluctant to speak.

But diplomats noted the intensive drive conducted by Mr. Mubarak to persuade Jordan and the PLO to adopt President Reagan's plan for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

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'Gandhi' top favourite to win Oscar honours

LOS ANGELES (R) — The betting for Hollywood's most promoted event of the year, Monday's Oscar awards, has Ben Kingsley and Meryl Streep 6-5 favourites for best actor awards.

Kingsley's award would reward his performance in his first film "Gandhi," and Streep's her role as the haunted survivor of a concentration camp in "Sophie's Choice."

The \$22 million "Gandhi," which runs for three hours and 18 minutes, is also favoured to collect awards for best picture and for best director, meaning Sir Richard

Attenborough who struggled for 20 years to raise the money for the film.

His main opposition could come from "E.T.," The Extra-Terrestrial, the story of a trip to Earth by a friendly little space orphan which has already become the highest box office attraction in history.

Winners, chosen by the 3,953 members of the industry who belong to the National Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, receive golden statuettes worth \$100 each. But the awards will add millions to box office takings.

Bonn urges renewed Middle East peace efforts

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — West Germany Monday urged all parties in the Middle East conflict to renew their peace efforts following the shooting of moderate Palestinian Issam Sartawi in Portugal on Sunday.

"The West German government learned with deep dismay of the murder yesterday of Dr. Issam Sartawi, who had worked in recent years for moderation and a peaceful solution," Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told a Euro-Arab cultural symposium here.

"In view of the terrible event in Portugal, the German government calls on all parties in the Middle East to resolutely pursue the path to peace," he said.

West Germany attached great importance to Arab unity in pursuing this goal, he said. He also pledged that the European Community would work closely with its partners in the region and the United States to achieve a comprehensive settlement.

Mr. Genscher made no reference to the serious set-back to President Reagan's peace initiative Sunday when Jordan abandoned a six-month effort to find common ground with the PLO.

FEATURES

Defectors ignored by Chinese press

By Michael Rank
Reuter

BEIJING — Before she sought asylum in the United States last July, Hu Na was one of China's brightest tennis hopes.

She was praised in magazine articles for her "miraculous courtship" as well as for her patriotic determination to win glory for China in international tennis tournaments.

But now Hu, 19, is a non-person in the official press, which has studiously ignored her defection as it always does when Chinese seek asylum abroad.

But ever since she first sought asylum, Chinese officials have made no secret of their anger over the case.

A foreign ministry spokesman said the ruling to allow Hu to stay in the U.S. was "a grave incident long premeditated and deliberately created by the United States."

Her request for asylum was "entirely the result of the enticement and coercion by a handful of Americans and the Chiang (Nationalist) elements of Taiwan working in collusion," he added. Sino-U.S. sporting exchanges and other contacts were bound to suffer, he said.

But despite its anger, China has shown a conciliatory attitude to the young tennis star personally in an attempt to show the world she will not be persecuted if she returns home.

A foreign ministry spokesman said last month Hu would be free to compete in an international tournament in Switzerland in June if she returns and "the question of persecuting did not exist in the past, nor will it arise after her return to China."

Most other Chinese who have defected to the West have been students or fairly low-ranking diplomats and have received little or no publicity.

But Hu Na, who first played in a tournament in the U.S. in December 1981 after winning the Casablanca cup in Mexico, was already something of a star before she sought asylum and is now by far the best-known Chinese to defect to the West.

The Western press has taken great interest in her case as she defected at a time of growing strains in the Sino-American relationship.

Washington and Peking have been at loggerheads for several years over U.S. arms supplies to Taiwan. Friction has increased since Ronald Reagan became president and a temporary compromise reached last August has done little to relieve the tension.

The Hu Na affair has added to the problems, and is made even more sensitive by the fact that she was quoted as saying in the New York Times last month that one of the reasons she decided to defect was her feeling that Chinese officials were trying to force her to join the Communist Party.

She also said she had often played tennis with one of China's most powerful leaders, Vice-Premier Wan Li, and that he often lectured her on Communist ideology after their games.

Wan is a close associate of elder statesman Deng Xiaoping, who is reported to have taken the matter up personally with U.S. officials.

One Western diplomat said Hu may have stressed the political reasons for her defection in order to obtain asylum under the refugee act of 1980.

This law provides for sanctuary to cases where applicants establish a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, national political opinion or membership of a specific social group.

The Chinese consulate in San Francisco has made public two letters from Hu's parents begging her to return. A Chinese acquaintance of the tennis star said she had told her parents and close friends of her plans to defect before she left China.

There is a strong feeling in China, especially among older people, that to defect is a betrayal of the motherland.

Traditionally minded Chinese therefore find the frequent defections by Soviet citizens and other East Europeans difficult to understand, even though they are aware of the temptations of the capitalist West.

But as a younger Chinese said: "Most of my friends would probably settle abroad if they were given the chance."

Despite social pressure on the relatives of defectors, they are probably not severely mistreated, diplomats said.

China's current leaders have strongly condemned the Maoist practice whereby the children and grandchildren of "class enemies" were themselves ostracised as reactionaries, and this probably applies to the families of defectors.

Hu is herself of an elite family who were almost certainly persecuted during the Maoist Cultural Revolution of 1966-76. She is a third-generation tennis-

player, which is extremely unusual in China where tennis, although gradually becoming more popular, is still played only by a small minority.

The official English-language magazine China Sports said in an article just before she defected that her parents were both senior sports officials in the southwestern province of Sichuan and her elder sister was formerly a member of an army motor-cycling team.

The magazine said she took up tennis at the age of eight, and praised her "blazing flashes of power and ever-changing tactics."

Australian drought continues despite rainfall

By Michael Thompson Noel

SYDNEY — The rain that washed across most of Eastern Australia in the last week of March has not officially broken the country's four-year drought-regarded by many as the worst since Australia's colonisation in 1788.

But in the words of Mr. Neville "Nifty" Wran, premier of New South Wales, it was "liquid gold" that in many areas has healed the scorched earth, set rivers flowing and provided a vitally-needed boost to the rural economy.

Normally, Australia is the world's biggest single exporter of beef and wool, and a major supplier of wheat. An estimated 1 million jobs depend on the farm sec-

tor. The current drought has gouged farm incomes, caused thousands of lay-offs, cost the federal and state governments dear in aid terms — and demoralised hundreds of outback and bush communities.

For one couple, Neville and Amanda Foley, who have spent the past eight months driving 1,500 scarecrow sheep around southern New South Wales in a search for grass and water, the rains meant a sudden end to their dusty travels: the sheep are now munching happily in a paddock near Oucanbeyan.

In many communities, children have run screaming for their lives at their first sight of rain.

Sydney's Bureau of Meteorology said the first rains were "drought-easing, not drought-breaking," though in Melbourne, Dr. John Zillman, director of the bureau in Victoria, said that near-normal rains in the next few weeks would break the drought in most parts.

To date, the rains have fallen in the right way-gently, so as not to sweep away topsoil, and at the right time — early enough to promote pasture growth ahead of the cooler months of the southern hemisphere winter and ideal for wheat planting in May.

The impact of the drought will be felt for months. The estimated net real value of Australian farm income for 1982-83 is about A\$2.5 billion (U.S. \$2.17 billion) against the A\$3.3 billion expected last July, while farm debt has soared past A\$5 billion.

The current wheat harvest is estimated at about 9 million tonnes (45 per cent down on last year), and the value of sugar exports is put at about A\$540 million, against a record A\$1.1 billion in 1980-81.

Recently, the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation estimated that cattle numbers would continue falling into next year, before levelling out at about 21 million, against 33.4 million in 1976. Recovery in herd numbers is not expected before 1987.

Farmers have also had to contend in recent months with horrific bush fires, which have incinerated thousands of head of livestock.

Wildlife has also suffered. Recently visited Kuring-Gai National Park, North of Sydney, and asked to see the koala reserve.

"There was a fire here a week ago," said the warden. "There are only two koalas left, both very scorched."

However, the drought-easing

rains mean that across much of the eastern wheat belt, ground preparation can start as a prelude to planting in late May or June, with sowings expected to occupy around 13.2 million hectares.

The plunge into wheat income by farmers need for immediate cash income, and by the fact that large tracts of land have been cleared of cattle and sheep.

With livestock prices starting to rise, many farmers will be on wheat — with the result that land that has not seen a wheat crop in more than ten years will go under the plough.

However, depleted subsoil moisture through much of the grainbelt is likely to mean a relatively modest crop of about 17 million tonnes — against a yield of up to 22 million tonnes that could be expected from 13 million hectares in bumper conditions.

With a guaranteed minimum price of about A\$140 a tonne expected by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra, the wheat crop alone could be worth about A\$2.4 billion, raising the prospect of a reduction in farm debt and a minor boost for farm machinery and equipment sales.

But there is no silver lining without a cloud. Some estimates show that sharply reduced cattle slaughtering could cause a sudden spiral in retail meat prices, leading to strong upward movements in the consumer price index and thus testing the mettle of the new Labour government's prices and incomes agreement with the unions.

Mr. John Kerrin, the new minister for primary industry, is thought to oppose interference in the free auction system for farm commodities. Yet the resolve of the new government may be put to the test if the unions get angry over food prices.

Financial Times news features

Living on the middle of the road

By Erma Bombeck

As I was driving down the highway the other day it occurred to me that the gas glut has brought back an American tradition that for the past year or so has been parked in driveways awaiting better times: The recreational vehicle.

For a while there, it looked like campers were destined to become the biggest planters ever built or the most expensive bedroom for "sleep-overs" ever constructed.

But not anymore. They're all in the words of Willie Nelson. On The Road Again. As a driver who considers "passing" one of life's great adventures, I found myself following a 32-footer with tandem wheels and a sign that read: "The Vagabonds, Ruby and Rusty, Kendallville, Indiana."

I know in my heart that if they didn't turn off for gas or food, I

would follow them right into Kendallville, rather than attempt to go around them.

For the next hour and a half, I had a lot of time to think about Ruby and Rusty and to reflect on my own camping days. I knew that Ruby was a sport. At that moment she was reading a road map to her husband who didn't care where the sun was setting, he was going east and I'd the sun was going down there, God had made a big mistake!

She would worry about the gears burning out when they went uphill and the brakes burning out when they went downhill. She would worry about sudden stops and wonder if she had remembered to lock into place all the cupboard doors or would she have mayonnaise and breakfast cereal to clean up.

She would worry about whether or not she had thrown out the fish-

heads wrapped in newspaper she had left by the sink.

She would worry about getting a spot in a campground that you could "pull through" instead of backing up and running the risk of driving over Rusty's foot again.

Her life was built around laundromats and how far it was to the next one. The big saucupan that she usually washed sheets in was being used to store bait.

The scenic wonders were secondary. Grand Canyon, Big deal! What she really wanted to see loomed over the horizon was a dumping station for their holding tank. Actually, this is all speculation. I never saw Ruby or Rusty. They pulled off the side of the road around 5:30. I figured things would seem better to both of them after they had lunch!

Field Newspaper Syndicate features

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مركز المدينة

HOME NEWS

Malhas will head delegation to WHO conference in May

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Dr. Zuhair Malhas is to head a five-member Jordanian delegation to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 36th session to be convened in Geneva early May.

The world organisation meeting will consider technical, financial and organisational topics. Specialised issues such as alcoholism, the physical consequences of it and the treatment of such an illness will be among more specific topics to be discussed by the attendees. The role of health workers in contributing to world peace and generally enhanced health levels will also be a discussion point. The prevailing health conditions in the occupied Arab territories, and the provision of specialised support for the Lebanese people will also be among subjects for debate.

WHO has decided to give Jordanian Ministry of Health Under-Secretary Dr. Sulaiman Al Sbehi its annual award to be presented by Dr. Ali Shusheh, WHO regional director for the eastern Mediterranean. Dr. Sbehi has been awarded the prize for his accomplishments in the field of public health, and will receive the prize during a special ceremony in Geneva on May 10.

Building quality control seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day symposium on the quality control of building materials opened at the Yarmouk University's Liaison Office in Amman Sunday.

Minister of Public Works Awni Al Masri, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, opened the meeting with a speech underlining the importance of controlling the quality of materials used in the building industry. The minister called on the participants to use the symposium to exchange views and experiences on quality control and the use of standardised systems in building.

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Albert Butros, director-general of the Royal Scientific

Society (RSS), which organised the symposium. Dr. Butros outlined the activities and programme of the RSS's Building Research Centre (BRC) in the construction business in Jordan.

Another speaker was Mr. Munirah Wabadi, head of the Arab division at the U.N. Fund for Science and Technology, who spoke about the importance of adopting standardised building materials and the need to recall Arab technicians and skilled workers abroad in order to help the industry in the Arab World.

BRC Director Rawhi Al Sharif made a speech at the opening meeting of the first session outlining the centre's contribution to the improvement of the construction business in Jordan. Participants, who represent various organisations in Arab countries in addition to representatives from ministries and the construction business in Jordan, will review a number of working papers. These will cover the control of building materials, the correct procedure for the mixing of concrete, masonry, the use of sand, gravel and cement in construction work.

PLO calls on Jordan to maintain close ties

(Continued from page 1)

in the country, joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees would continue functioning at all levels, and "brotherly relations would remain warm and strong," Mr. Abu Odeh said.

"Our decision to abandon talks with the PLO leadership on joint moves for Middle East peace in no way means that our present relationship will be weakened," the minister said. "Jordan's support for the Palestinian cause is sound and strong, and will remain so in future."

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said on arrival in Amman Monday from Baghdad on his way to Damascus the PLO would remain in close contact with the Jordanians. Mr. Kaddoumi was the first senior PLO official to come to

Amman after the Jordanian statement.

He told Reuters: "We will remain as close as we are in our present contacts with our brothers in Jordan for cooperation and coordination. Our bilateral relations are developing, regardless of differences in views over the Reagan initiative."

Mr. Kaddoumi said the Reagan plan was not the only field of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO.

"There are other fields and we will continue to explore them," he added.

Mr. Khalaf confirmed that the PLO had totally rejected the Reagan plan. "Our rejection of the Reagan plan was aimed at preventing any rift within the Arab World, because we do not know what the Reagan plan would have led to," he said.

Cairo maintains silence

(Continued from page 1)

For months Mr. Mubarak and his ministers have been publicly warning that peace prospects might retreat over the horizon unless Jordan and the PLO swiftly embraced the Reagan initiative.

This theme was reiterated by Mr. Mubarak during earlier stages of his tour in China, North Korea, Japan and Indonesia.

While on the tour Mr. Mubarak sent one of his closest aides, Juma Al Baz, to Amman with a personal message for King Hussein.

As the only Arab country ever to sign a treaty with Israel, Egypt is deeply concerned to see other Arab states follow this path and remove the stigma that has kept Cairo for four years in diplomatic quarantine.

The Egyptian view is that unless a quick start is made on the Reagan plan all hope of progress will be smothered by the onset of the United States presidential election campaign.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told Reuters in a recent interview that Egypt had been in constant touch with Jordan and the PLO on this subject. Mr. Ghali said that if peace efforts stalled now there could be no hope of a revival until 1985.

And by that time, in the Egyptian view, Israel's grip on the occupied West Bank and Gaza could be so thorough as to banish for the foreseeable future all hopes of a Palestinian homeland.

Al Akhbar was the only Cairo newspaper to publish Jordan's decision to end negotiations with the PLO on joint political action. "(King) Hussein abandons efforts to solve the Palestinian problem," it said in a small frontpage box.

Youth detained in Lisbon

(Continued from page 1)

Important news soon about the detention of Mr. Sartawi's killer. The police statement said the Arab youth under interrogation could be brought before a magistrate by Tuesday evening.

Under Portuguese law, only a magistrate can charge him or order his release once he has been taken into custody.

The Moroccan ambassador, Moulay Slama Benzidane, told Reuters: "His passport is definitely false. He is not a Moroccan. He speaks Arab but not with a Moroccan accent and he knows only English, not French."

Tankers continue to sail unattended into the Gulf, shipping experts said. Deep-draught vessels suck in cooling water well

below the level of the oil slick. Experts say one well is leaking thick, black tarry crude while two others nearby are ablaze.

Bahrain's Health Minister, Jawwad Salem Al Arrayed, told a press conference in Bahrain that the experts meeting in Kuwait were seeking a plan to cap one well and the two others, which would also leak when the fires were put out.

He said experts had recommended that detergents should not be used to mop up the slick because of danger to marine life.

Tal requests JD 3m housing loan approval

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Education Ministry has asked the Prime Minister's office to approve a Housing Bank loan of JD 3 million to finance the construction of 200 housing units.

These will be built for teachers as part of the project being implemented by the ministry to ensure adequate housing for its teachers in the remote areas in which they work, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Monday.

The ministry has also contacted

the Housing Bank and the Housing Corporation to this purpose. The ministry justified its request on the grounds that lack of appropriate housing for teachers in remote areas affects the performance of teachers, and consequently their students.

A meeting was held recently between Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal, the general manager of the Housing Bank, and the director-general of the Housing Corporation to discuss the project.

Land registration fees fall

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fees collected by the Amman Land Registration Department (ALRD) on real estate buying and selling operations in the first quarter of 1983 totalled

JD 3,225,000, a drop of JD 400,000 over the same period in 1982, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Monday.

ALRD Director Munir Fakhour attributed the main reason for this drop to the heavy snow and rainfall experienced during the first quarter of the year, and the transfer of the departmental premises to a new location, which took five days.

King sees Lacaze

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace Monday Chairman of the French Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Jeannou Lacaze. The meeting was attended by Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and the French ambassador in Amman.

"We want good relations with Jordan but we remain committed to the Fez resolutions and those of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers," he added.

He was referring to the PNC's decision to back an Arab peace plan, drawn up by Saudi Arabia and approved by other Arab countries in Fez, Morocco, last September. From the Palestinian point of view, the Arab plan went further than Mr. Reagan's proposals by offering them an independent Palestinian state.

Mr. Khalaf said Mr. Arafat and King Hussein had agreed, during talks in Amman earlier this month, to keep the door open to all Middle East peace initiatives including the Reagan plan.

"But after a series of consultations among PLO leaders in Kuwait (which included Arafat), we decided to reject the Reagan

plan to prevent any rift within the Arab World," the PLO official said.

GCC backs Jordan's move

In the Gulf, a senior official from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said in Bahrain that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies supported the Jordanian statement.

"Jordan should not be forced to take any decision on peace moves unilaterally... any decision on the issue should be endorsed by the Arabs," the official said.

He added it was imperative to hold a proposed Arab summit on schedule to map out a common strategy on future peace moves.

The summit is scheduled to take place later this month in Fez, Morocco.

U.S. to continue efforts

(Continued from page 1)

He said King Hussein and PLO Chairman Arafat had been close to an agreement on the conditions under which Jordan would enter peace talks as envisaged in the president's plan.

Asked what changes the PLO had made, Mr. Shultz said: "Basically to the notion that the PLO had to be at the bargaining table and back to the independent Palestinian state."

At the White House, spokesman Larry Speakes said Mr. Reagan had telephoned King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein Sunday and would be calling other Arab leaders this week.

The Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Ibn Sa'id, was arriving in Washington for a state visit later Sunday.

"The president will continue,"

Mr. Speakes told reporters. "The job is too important for him to be deterred by events of the weekend. He will persevere... he is in it for the long haul."

President Reagan said Sunday the PLO had proposed changes to the agreement which were unacceptable to King Hussein, to King Fahd and to himself.

Mr. Reagan's reference to King Fahd was a surprise, because the Saudi leader, while being a strong backer of the PLO, publicly maintains that he never interferes with the wishes of the Palestinians.

Mr. Speakes said Monday there was hope and reason to believe that it was possible to proceed with the Reagan peace plan.

Mr. Speakes differentiated between the response to King Hussein from Mr. Arafat, who had lengthy talks with the King in Amman, and other elements in the PLO.

Habib returns to Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

return had been planned before Jordan's announcement Sunday.

To persuade Jordan to back the Reagan peace plan, the U.S. had been pressing Israel to agree to terms for pulling its army out of Lebanon and for a halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

The senior Israeli official rejected again on Sunday American criticism of Jewish settlements in Arab land and said it was only one of many problems.

He repeated Israel's call for Jordan to hold talks on the basis of the 1979 treaty between Egypt and Israel rather than the Reagan plan.

Jordan has refused to discuss the treaty's proposals for limited local "autonomy" for the 1.3 million Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

While the Begin government exhibited relief over the near collapse of the Reagan plan, newspapers said the assassination of

PLO moderate Issam Sartawi Sunday dimmed the prospects of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The Jerusalem Post said Dr. Sartawi's murder and the Jordanian decision represented "a victory for Arab extremism—for Syria and the radical elements in the PLO and, of course, the Kremlin."

Israeli spokesman Yossi Amihud told reporters Jordan's announcement and the Sartawi assassination had "absolutely no effect" on the discussions with Lebanon.

Monday's talks, the 28th round, marked the start of an intensive four-day bout of negotiations in a new format. Instead of specialist committees, the Israeli, Lebanese and American delegates met in two groups—one to discuss "security" arrangements and the other to complete agreement on other issues, sources reported.

For weeks the main stumbling block has been "security" arrangements and the part the Israeli-backed Haddad militia is to have in South Lebanon.

Hussein condoles Sartawi's family

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein expressed his condolences on the death of Palestinian leader Issam Sartawi to his sister in Amman, Monday, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

The King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, called at the home of Dr. Sahab Sartawi Jarrar and told her: "Issam was an honest struggler who stood by his principles, which were very clear."

"Please consider me as a brother and a friend, because I was a friend to Issam," the King was quoted as saying.

Dr. Sartawi was shot dead while attending a Socialist International conference in Portugal Sunday.

A plane is expected to bring Sartawi's body from Portugal to Amman, but relatives said the International Committee of the Red Cross had also been approached to try to obtain Israeli approval for his burial in the West Bank.

The relatives said Sartawi had always wished to be buried in the West Bank, where he was born.

GDR opens industry show

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition staged by the German Democratic Republic (GDR) on machinery, industrial tools and engineering equipment was opened in Amman Monday.

Working models do justice to Leonardo's genius

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The working models constructed from the designs of Leonardo da Vinci by craftsmen at the Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnica di Milano now on show at the Royal Cultural Centre as part of the European

Community's Spring Festival, are so finely made in all the correct materials that one feels even the great artist himself would have been impressed. In fact one feels sure that Leonardo would have been delighted to see his inventions become three dimensional, albeit miniaturised, reality and perhaps, if he had had

these craftsmen working for him during his lifetime, he could have developed further some of the many ideas his "feverishly inventive imagination" conceived.

Perfect models

Instead we are the ones to benefit and, although as Burckhardt wrote "the colossal outlines of Leonardo's nature can never be more than dimly and distantly conceived", it is through these perfect models—which are a sheer delight to look at in themselves—that we can get a better idea of the scope and depth of Leonardo's genius. Certainly

ART REVIEW

these models make Leonardo's inventions more readily accessible, more easily understandable than if one were to spend the same amount of time absorbing his voluminous notes despite the fact that they are liberally interspersed with sketches, which are works of art in themselves.

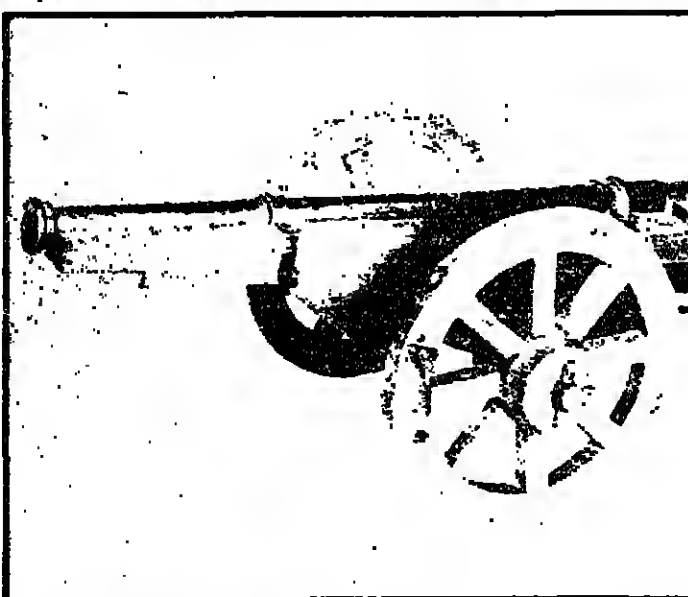
Fertile mind

Leonardo's fertile mind covered every subject and discipline from botany to geometry, from the pragmatic (hydraulics) to the more theoretical (astronomy), and in every field he made astounding discoveries many of which were only verified in this century. The 28 models show therefore only a small proportion of Leonardo's achievements, illustrating mainly his ideas for making weapons more lethal (a sign of the times in which he was living) and for making man more mobile—by land, water and air. The model of Leonardo's "aeromobile" or quick firing machine, complete with guiding fins, are staggeringly early prototypes for today's jet equivalents. Perhaps the most beautiful model on display is one of his designs that never came true—the flying machine with beating wings and rudder. Many of the models are equipped with little levers, small handles and cranks by which the machines are worked. They are so inviting that the urge to twiddle them is at times almost overwhelming, as for example on the mechanical drum—an ingenious invention to set the parade going at a very regular beat. Other models that are particularly attractive are the parachute—the little figure hanging on for dear life by his hands—the navigational aids—the wicker float with its thick leather waterproof jacket and the double hull and paddle boat which are so delicately made that one has to pause in appreciative wonder—the machine for lifting columns (complete with miniature cranes) and finally the double revolving crane—all winches, pulleys and sprockets and two tiny little hucksters.

Displayed along with enlarged photographs of the relevant pages of Leonardo's sketchbooks and explanatory captions in Arabic, Italian and English, these models make an exciting display which appeals on many levels from the purely aesthetic to a childlike sense of wonder. Definitely an exhibition not to be missed. Exhibition runs until April 21.



"Machine for lifting columns", one of the working models on display as part of the Leonardo da Vinci exhibition (Jordan Times photo)



"Canon elevated on rungs", one of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings brought to life as part of the European Community Spring Festival's show at the Royal Cultural Centre. (Jordan Times photo)



Jordan Times

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Sartawi's cause lives on

LONG before he was assassinated in Portugal on Sunday, Issam Sartawi had abandoned the gun as the only means to liberate his people and land from Israeli occupation and hegemony. He waged a different, albeit complementary, kind of struggle: that of leading a peace campaign in Europe and the international arena against an enemy who seemed to understand only the language of force and who knew how to use it in sophisticated and large quantities.

It matters to a certain extent who killed this Palestinian leader. It matters much more to ask why his killers did it.

Zionism was born and nurtured in Europe. The state of Israel saw its first light there. The day he was killed, Dr. Sartawi was trying to explain to those same Europeans and others what had happened to the Palestinians since Israel came into being for them to be in the state they are in and what was needed to make peace between Arabs and Jews, between Palestinians and Israelis, in this part of the world once again.

The Israeli delegate to the forum at which Dr. Sartawi tried this, who is the chairman of the Israeli Labour Party, did not want — himself and the others — to hear. He fought not only the Palestinian's credentials but also his representative status and his very cause.

Then came the assassin, apparently commanded by a certain Palestinian group, to finish off the job of the Israeli; this time with bullets. How ironic and painful. How disgusting and hateful.

One perhaps could understand the Israeli challenge, and enmity, to what the assassinated PLO leader stood for. Very few could ever understand that the cause for which he struggled could ever be championed by those who killed him.

It has to be the enemies of the Palestinian cause who carried out the murder of Issam Sartawi. But his cause lives on.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Facts of the situation

The Jordanian government's communiqué stresses the following facts:

—The period that followed the 1967 June war was the beginning of an Arab acceptance of the principle that a diplomatic solution must be found to the Middle East problem.

—Jordan endorsed Arab unity at the Rabat meeting which gave the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) the position of being the sole representative of the Palestinian people. This has not jeopardised Jordan's support for the West Bank people, who continue to suffer under Israeli occupation and oppression.

—Jordan has been among the most enthusiastic Arab countries in favour of working out a common Arab stand to face the accelerating threat by Israel. This resulted in the formulation of the Fez summit programme, which contained basic common elements with President Reagan's initiative. The former in reality has no executive force behind it, while the latter opens avenues for the practical liberation of the occupied land and their people.

—Intensive talks between Jordan and the PLO took place to form a joint framework for making use of all available opportunities for peace, but the stand adopted by the PLO leaves no doors open for any possible advancement.

Jordan, while honouring its commitments towards Arab unity, will continue to deal with the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and will spare no effort in trying to free the occupied territories and their people while guaranteeing Jordan's national security.

Al Dustour: Jordan affirms support

The Jordanian statement on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks affirmed Jordan's pan-Arab commitment to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and to support the residents of the occupied Arab territories.

Throughout the months of talks, it seemed evident that the two sides were in agreement to use political means, harnessed together with Arab and international support, in order to regain the occupied territories. There was a consensus on the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fez summit as well as a consensus in accepting U.S. Security Council resolution 242. Israel's rejection of the Arab peace plan and resolution 242 was always an obstacle in the way of peace. Jordan has always been eager to work for the achievement of the desired goal of freeing the occupied territories and its residents. In order to achieve this goal, Jordan cooperated with the PLO and had talks with it until these talks failed.

It was thought possible to find the outlet for this complicated situation by giving momentum to the Fez summit resolutions and associating them with the other peace plans. The Jordanians and the PLO had agreed on this principle. Now that the talks have reached a deadlock, Jordan has to look to its national security and its pan-Arab role both to assist the residents of the occupied territories and the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Sawt Al Shaab: PLO changes priorities

Ever since the Arabs accepted resolution 242 and adopted the Fez summit resolutions, the main effort was focussed on how to break the deadlock and end the state of no-war and no-peace, which to date has only succeeded in serving the Zionist's expansionist plans. Since Jordanian-Palestinian relations were unique, Jordan sought to embark on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian course of action to give momentum to the peace process and to rescue the occupied territories and its residents.

As the Jordanian statement issued Sunday explains, Jordanian-Palestinian talks were based on a mutual view of Jordan's position. However, at the last minute and before issuing the final joint statement, the PLO went back on the line that had been jointly charted by Jordan and the PLO, and chose another political line, giving itself new priorities which do not put the liberation of the occupied territories first. This change made what had been previously agreed with Mr. Yasser Arafat difficult to achieve.

Despite the fact that the PLO went back on its agreement with Jordan on the joint action plan, Jordan still respects the Palestinian decision and will continue to render its full support to Palestinian rights and the steadfastness of the residents of the occupied territories. Meanwhile, Jordan has also declared its commitment to the Arab consensus which rejects all efforts to act on behalf of the Palestinians in order to reach a settlement of the Palestinian issue.

This week's breakdown in the Palestinian-Jordanian talks that had been taking place to formulate a common plan of political action should be seen as a suspension more than a final collapse of joint efforts in this direction. The lessons that can be learned from the matter can be grouped into several categories:

1) Jordan is not Egypt, and King Hussein is not Anwar Sadat. Despite enormous American efforts to entice Jordan into "joining the peace process", as they like to call it in New Jersey and the American eastern seaboard, where psychodelic visions of peace processes come and go with little relation to reality, Jordan has decided for the moment to step back from the brink and leave the question of Palestine to the Palestinians and their chosen leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Those who had hoped for Jordan and King Hussein to abandon all reason and cast their fate into Ronald Reagan's saddlebags have learned once again that the principles of Jordanian political action are more closely related to the complexities of pan-Arab demographics, economics and pre-World War I stirrings of independence and justice than they are related to pop ideologies of American presidents whose intellectual movements resemble the itinerant patterns of pastoral nomads.

As the Carter-Brzezinski-Vance team learned in the late 1970s, the Reagan-Shultz-Clark team has learned in 1983 that Jordan cannot be enticed to abandon a principled stand in return for a series of vague and unsubstantiated promises from a fleeing American leadership.

2) America has cried "wolf!" one too many times for its own good. The substantial American effort to draw Jordan into an unspecified negotiating process was based on two wrong premises: That Jordan has no effective option but to follow the American lead, and that if this chance were missed another one might not come around again for a very long time, if ever again. Both of those American premises are fictitious. They have been used by the American administration to try and hide the underlying weakness in the entire structure of current peace efforts—the weakness that stems from America's untenable desire to be both the fair mediator in the Middle East and also to be the protector and financier and armorer of Israel. Those are incompatible goals. America tried to get around this contradiction by making promises that if only the

Time to pause

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordanians stepped forward, with or without Palestinians of some sort, the United States would then "do its best" to halt Israeli settlements and nudge Israel into a more reasonable negotiating position. This is what I call crying "wolf!", and the Americans have done it so often, and so badly, that when they tried it again during the past six months, they fell flat on their faces. We—Palestinians and Jordanians—simply did not believe them. If there has ever been an American intention to "do its best" to make Israel accept the principles of a fair and reasonable compromise settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on twin homelands for Israelis and Palestinians, there has not been a single shred of evidence for this in the past 35 years. For the American administration to make more vague promises that it will lean on Israel when the time is right to do so, as was done only a few days ago, is simply to aggravate the already monumental incoherence of American political action in the Middle East and the colossal lack of American credibility in the area.

3) The principle of joint Palestinian-Jordanian political action is indispensable for any future progress towards peace, and

the basis that has been established during the past six months will remain there to be expanded later. The concept of confederal ties between Jordanian and Palestinian entities in the future is one that seems to make sense to the majority of both peoples. This principle will remain in the background for the moment, to be activated when future circumstances permit.

The positive elements that have emerged during the past six months, or since President Ronald "Viability is My Middle Name" Reagan made his speech on Sept. 1, 1982, must be maintained and strengthened in the coming months and years. I suggested immediately after the Reagan speech that what we saw was a novel and positive "American inclination to be reasonable", and I believe this inclination may still be there. It should be nurtured. Despite their strange combination of naivete, imprecision, lack of fortitude and political amnesia, the Americans need to be encouraged to keep moving down the same path by which they have started to recognise the centrality of the Palestinian issue and have hinted that they may be prepared to require Israel to live by the laws and principles of the rest of the international community. America must be challenged to "do its best" without having to subject old friends to moral or political blackmail.

If and when the United States can transform itself from Israel's fairy godmother into a truly impartial mediator, it will find the Arabs falling over each other to be the first to jump into its diplomatic lap. We need to continue to explore the possibilities of engaging the Americans in a political dialogue that would include authentic and legitimate Palestinian representatives, as a first step towards an official and open political dynamic among the United States, Jordan and the PLO.

It is useful now to have put aside all the deadlines that had started to put powerful pressures on all the key parties, namely Jordan, the PLO and the United States. If time is a factor that may work against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, it is also, by a cruel irony of the flesh, the essential element required to transform American irrationality into rationality, haste into care, wild dreams into more practical possibilities. America, as we know, is a young nation; and though it exhibits flashes of brilliance (note the successful space shuttle

flight this week) it requires, as do all young elements, time to mature and to accumulate the wisdom that only experience brings. It seems we all have to take a chance that the element of time will not kill as all before a stronger strain of maturity and reason prevails in Washington.

But all is not only in Washington's hands. The PLO is now under considerable pressure to formulate policies to take advantage of those positive elements that still strut on the political stage. If the PLO has not yet offered the specifics that may have been sought from it, it has clearly demonstrated that it is willing to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through peaceful negotiations—if a reciprocal willingness is rendered from the American-Israeli axis. Its challenge as a political leadership now is to lead the Palestinians into those grey areas of diplomacy from whence it can further the aims of the Palestinians while putting the onus for further moves towards peace on the American-Israeli axis that talks peace but wages war. The PLO and Jordan have gone a long way forward since Sept. 1, 1982. Let us pause now, and see if the Americans and the Israelis can catch up.



U.S.-Turkey: Close relations and increased military aid

By Hugh Carnegie
Reuter

ANKARA (R) — The Reagan administration's intention to increase military aid to Turkey next year by 60 per cent, the largest percentage increase for any country proposed in the 1984 budget, underlines the close relations forged between Washington and Ankara during military rule here.

In its budget proposal to Congress in February, the administration requested \$740 million of military aid for Turkey next year compared with 450 million requested for 1983. At the same time it proposed halving economic aid, now that Turkey's economy has largely recovered from the chronic inflation and indebtedness that plagued it in the late 1970s. It asked for only \$175 million for 1984 compared with 350 million this year. But the overall increase, if it is approved by Congress, will consolidate Turkey's position as the third largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel and Egypt.

American officials in Ankara say the overriding consideration dictating the increase in Tur-

key's key strategic position on NATO's southeast flank, bordering the Soviet Union and the troubled regions of the Middle East, coupled with the need to update its creaking military machine.

Much of Turkey's military machinery dates back to World War II. Its outdatedness is, in part, due to an arms embargo imposed by the U.S. from 1975 to 1978 in punishment for Turkey's invasion of northern Cyprus in 1974. "After World War II and Korea, Turkey got lots of stuff from us and was very strong — competitive with its neighbours Bulgaria, Iraq and Syria. Now it doesn't have anything to match them," one U.S. official said.

As a result, the proposed military aid for next year is earmarked for tank modernisation, improving anti-tank and air defence systems, buying helicopters, setting up anti-nuclear defences and defences against biological and chemical weapons and improving communications.

The Turkish government is delighted at what officials say is a sincere desire by the Reagan admin-

istration to bring the country's forces up to scratch. "But we're still not satisfied by the amount," said one Turkish diplomat. "The aid should have been increased earlier. We must update our obsolete equipment... NATO should be concerned to make Turkey strong." The increasing U.S. support has not been without opposition within Turkey, however.

Suspicion

A number of prominent newspaper columnists — virtually the only outlet for public opinion under military rule — have expressed suspicion of Washington's motives.

They have seized on three issues connected with American aid to Turkey as ominous indicators that Washington plans a role for Turkey beyond its NATO commitments in protecting U.S. interests in the Middle East and Gulf regions. The issues are the agreement last year by the U.S. to modernise a dozen Turkish air bases, at least three of which are near the Soviet and Iranian borders, the possible use of Turkish

soil by the American Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) in the Middle East area and speculation that medium range nuclear weapons due to be deployed in Western Europe from this year could be sited in Turkey if Western European countries refuse to accept them.

Under the headline "we have to be careful", Ali Simen of the left-of-centre Cumhuriyet noted the U.S. plans to boost military aid to Turkey. "Why has Washington suddenly become so responsive in this matter? Is she after persuading Ankara to accept the RDF? This would be contrary to Turkey's notion of NATO as well as her interests in the region," he wrote.

Teoman Erel in the daily Milliyet wrote that recent developments in U.S.-Turkish relations could be interpreted as signs that Turkey was preparing for a "new mission." "We must impress upon our Western Allies, as well as our Arab friends, that Turkey has no intention of acting adventurously," he said. The Turkish foreign ministry dismisses such concerns

as "far-fetched." "We are not being given outside obligations," said one official.

The ministry says that the scheme for modernising the air bases is strictly within the framework of NATO, says it has made clear that Turkey will not accept the RDF and has never been asked to consider deploying cruise and Pershing missiles.

U.S. officials repeat the same view, pointing out that although America is funding the modernisation of the air bases, no increase is presently planned in the 10,000 U.S. military personnel and their families currently stationed in Turkey. But, at the same time, they say the existence of a stronger Turkey would be useful to the U.S. as it would inevitably have to be taken into account by any power contemplating a military move in the region.

Washington's growing support for Turkey has coincided with a military regime in Ankara which the U.S. has backed solidly, unlike many of its European allies whose relations with Turkey have deteriorated sharply since the 1980 coup.

The U.S. has accepted the ruling general's promise to restore elected government by the end of this year or early 1984, playing down allegations of torture and harsh military rule measures. These caused the European Community to hold up more than \$600 million worth of economic aid and brought moves to expel Turkey from the Council of Europe.

But the souring of European-Turkish relations has made Washington only more aware of its role as Ankara's most important ally. "We are deeply disturbed by the rotten relations between Europe and Turkey. Only the U.S. is holding Turkey to the West," said one U.S. diplomat.

He voiced "anguish" over such moves by the military government as the detention and trial of hundreds of trade unionists and other restrictions on former politicians. But he said Washington would not publicly or explicitly complain and would only make signals to the ruling generals that such actions could endanger in Congress the aid package they want so much.

Militant Sikhs are pressing for religious and political concessions

Extremist influence is increasing in Punjab

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

NEW DELHI — Militant Sikhs pressing for religious and political concessions in the north Indian state of Punjab are falling increasingly under the influence of extremists, Indian commentators and newspapers said Wednesday.

The growing strength of extremists within the Sikh Akali Dal party is hampering a deal with the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, despite a narrowing of differences during negotiations, the commentators added. At least 21 people were killed and more than 200 injured

in violence this week when Sikhs mounted a road blockade in Punjab to press demands including greater autonomy for the state.

The government accused the Sikhs, who sport unshorn beards and wear turbans, of using guns, swords and spears in battles with police. Home Minister Prakash Chand Sethi told parliament that demonstrators had indulged in unprovoked violence and arson. Fifteen died in police firing to quell violence and Sikh leader Harbans Singh Longowal demanded a judicial inquiry into what he called indiscriminate police action. In fresh clashes Tuesday in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar 11

people were injured.

The Akali party, formed early this century, wants neighbouring Punjab-speaking areas to be incorporated in the state, including the city of Chandigarh which is at present shared with Haryana to the south. It also wants redistribution of water rights and more locally-raised taxes to be spent on the state, a wealthy farming district where most of India's 12 million Sikhs live.

The government has already met most of the religious demands, which include permission to carry sacred daggers on internal Indian airline flights, a ban on the sale of alcohol and tobacco around

the Sikh golden temple shrine in Amritsar and the broadcast of Sikh scriptures on local state-run radio. But a demand for laws giving Amritsar control of the main Sikh temples across the country has not been conceded.

Indian newspapers said Wednesday the government had gone a long way towards meeting the Sikh demands, and they called for fresh talks to reach a settlement. The papers warned that the extremist wing of the Akali party could thwart a compromise. The Times of India said in an editorial that the extremists were holding the party to ransom.

Reasonableness and flexibility were required, the Times said, adding: "But these two qualities, alas, have become the first victim of Akali intransigence, born partly of the strife between the moderate leadership and the extremists who are evidently holding it to ransom."

The Communist newspaper Patriot said Longowal was now surrounded by "hot-heads, fugitives, and extremists" who were hiding within the precincts of the golden temple, which by convention police do not enter.

Gandhi has refused to concede demands for greater autonomy because it could encourage other

states in India, where regional sympathies are already gaining strength. But many politicians believe a commission set up last month to examine relations between the states and the national government has gone a long way towards narrowing differences with the Akali moderates. The Sikh mainstream rejects the idea of secession, but some hard-liners would like to see establishment of an independent state known as Khalistan. The Sikhs, whose religion was founded in the late 15th century, had their own short-lived state in Punjab in the early 19th century which was later absorbed by the British empire.

Zimbabwe's explosive tribal problem has 162-year history

By Colin Style

The seeds of the most explosive problem in today's Zimbabwe, the Shona/Ndebele division, were laid in 1821. It was then that Mzilikazi, one of Shaka Zulu's satellite chiefs, unwisely kept back booty and was obliged to flee Zululand from his royal master's wrath. In a 16 year trek, he cut a swathe up to the Zambezi, fighting the Boers and the Griquas, and smashing and assimilating the elements of other tribes he met on the way.

When he arrived in what is now Matabeleland, in about 1837, he was in business, having forged a brand new nation, the Matabele, from shattered tribes and the nucleus of the original Nguni stock. And, having come triumphantly in full strength, it was natural for Mzilikazi to perpetuate this successfully militaristic style of rule. The loose association of neighbouring Shona tribes was disorganised militarily, and the Ndebele Indunas (war captains) raided them constantly and systematically.

The colonial powers in Africa created problems for the future as they arbitrarily established boundaries — either cutting tribal territory in two, or yoking hostile elements together. When the Europeans arrived in Rhodesia in 1890, they did the same, with one difference. In a way, they encouraged in this by King Lobengula, Mzilikazi's son. The first concession seekers and hunters were told that the Shona were vassals and Lobengula had suzerainty over Matabeleland. Hence, Matabeleland and Matabeleland were de facto one country in the eyes of the Ndebele.

The white settlers adopted some of the Matabele's disorganisation of the Shona, and often expressed admiration for the martial qualities of the Ndebele. (Colonists often seemed to admire the conservative, militaristic ethic elements in a country colonised. Paradoxically, they often proved more tractable and willing to serve.) Over the 80 years of white rule, the myth of superior Ndebele prowess and valour was kept alive.

A myth

It was a myth. The Shona and the Matabele rose in rebellion against the whites in 1896-97. Both revolts were suppressed with some difficulty. Again, Lobengula found it more and more difficult, towards the end of his reign, to prosecute wars and raids against his neighbours as the Shona became better armed and organised.

In more modern times, the Rhodesia African Rifles, which fought in the Second World War and did well at Kohima against the Japanese, were traditionally recruited from the Karanga, a Shona tribe.

But, fallacious or not, the myths are still potent. In 1975, when the Ndebele Joshua Nkomo was released from detention and was having talks with Ian Smith, our Shona domestic, in a spontaneous outburst, told us that they (the Shona) would never again submit to the "Madzvi" (a word that means both "invaders" and a large "inedible species of grasshopper").

More recently, I heard a recording of an old man in the Marondera district recounting oral his-

tory. In relating hearsay memories of the waves of Matabele raids, the old man vehemently asserted that the Shona never again would submit to this treatment: "That is my message for Joshua Nkomo."

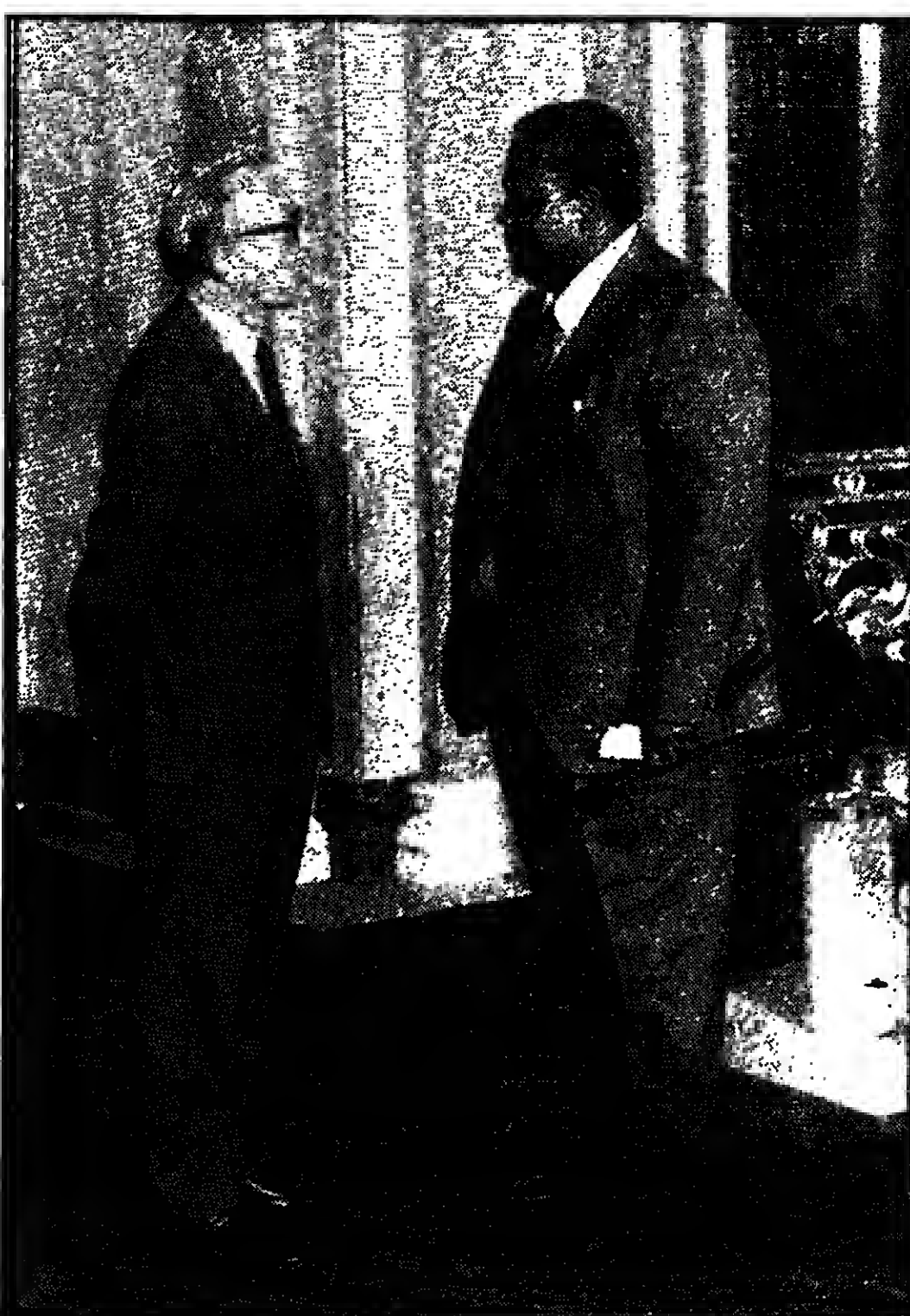
In the light of this, Robert Mugabe's Shona 5th Brigade sweeping through Matabeleland to root out dissidents suggest an attempt to avenge the past.

Culture differences

The culture differences between the two tribes are considerable. The obvious difference is language, but, apart from that, Shona and Ndebele just are not comfortable together. Back in 1970, an educated Ndebele, working in then Salisbury, told me that his wife refused to live in Moshonaland, so he worked in the week and travelled home to Ndebele Bulawayo for weekends. The Shona seem more open and progressive, whilst the Ndebele are locked in a narrower, restrictive culture down in "fortress" Bulawayo. Hide-bound or not, the Ndebele are still there, as firmly rooted as their sacred Matopos Hills. Outnumbered five to one, they are an integral part of today's Zimbabwe. Accommodation between the two tribes must and will be reached. In the meantime, the historical virus is still to be expelled from the system.

Crudely and simply, the Ndebele need to rid themselves of the dangerous belief that the Shona are "push overs", and the Shona must suppress the urge to exploit their historical sense of inferiority.

— Financial Times news feature



Ndebele leader Joshua Nkomo with then U.K. foreign secretary Lord Carrington at 1979 London talks (photo: Gamma)

Malaysia heads initiative to make Antarctica truly international

By Reg Gratton
Reuter

KUALA LUMPUR — If the bleak ice-bound mass of Antarctica, the combined size of the United States and Australia, becomes a major international issue, Malaysia could be responsible.

For it wants the huge continent to be regarded as the common heritage of mankind and beyond national jurisdiction and, in the past year, has launched an initiative which one Western diplomat said could "open Pandora's box".

Malaysia's foreign minister Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie's proposal that it should be accessible to all nations and for the benefit of all mankind was included in the economic declaration at last month's non-aligned summit in New Delhi.

It urged the United Nations to take the first step by undertaking a comprehensive study on Antarctica.

Malaysia hopes this will eventually lead to a regime governing the use and exploitation of resources similar to the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention.

But it is not a prospect that pleases those 12 nations, including the United States and the Soviet Union, which originally signed the Antarctic treaty in 1959, freezing all claims and counter-claims in the interest of international cooperation and scientific research.

Malaysia faced stiff opposition to its resolution from Argentina, a claimant to a chunk of Antarctica and the only non-aligned country which is a signatory to the treaty.

Malaysian officials believe Argentina consulted closely with other treaty members like New Zealand and the United States throughout its negotiations for a compromise.

It was finally agreed that a phrase that the area was "beyond national jurisdiction" should be dropped as some of the 26 treaty signatories — others acceded after 1961 — had territorial claims.

discord".

One diplomat said the treaty had worked very well and was open for accession by any member of the U.N. "We do not know why Malaysians are taking a lead to change this," he added.

Twelve nations currently operate more than 30 scientific research stations on Antarctica.

These include the United States, which has a station at the South Pole, and Britain, whose famous explorer Captain James Cook first circumnavigated the continent in 1772-73.

The men and women on these stations share 14 million square kilometres with large numbers of seals, penguins and seabirds, but little else.

But it is what lies underneath the 4,000 metre deep ice-sheet that could cause problems.

Hunger for minerals

The world hunger for mineral supplies has stimulated search even in the Antarctic — though no minerals yet found are presently considered commercially exploitable.

The Malaysians have already said the treaty is deficient in not having any specific provisions on exploitation of resources, but the 14 treaty members active in the Antarctic are currently working on regulating future mineral activities.

Last January, the countries met in Wellington, New Zealand, and said they wanted to ensure that exploration would not be allowed unless consistent with the aim of protecting the environment and preserving international cooperation.

Before they meet again Malaysia is likely to have taken its initiative a step further by formulating a draft resolution to be introduced at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad raised the issue at the U.N. last year, predicting that the Antarctic could provide the world with food and other resources.

"It is only right that such exploitation should benefit the poor nations as much as the rich," he said.

Western diplomats said that they expected strong opposition from treaty members to any U.N. pressure to change the status quo. But Malaysia's move has been greatly strengthened by the support of the 101-member Non-Aligned Movement.

"The whole world should be making a claim on Antarctica," Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie said.

Japan-Soviet talks will focus on strained relations

By Elliot Taylor
Reuter

TOKYO — Talks between Japanese and Soviet officials next week will focus on the strained state of Japanese-Soviet relations, which foreign ministry sources in Tokyo judge to be at their lowest ebb in nearly three decades.

The talks in Tokyo on Tuesday and Wednesday, the third round since 1979, have gained significance since a recent war of words between Tokyo and Moscow over SS-20 nuclear missiles based in Asia. Already strained by a territorial dispute harking back to World War II, relations have entered their worst phase since the two countries re-established diplomatic ties in 1956, the sources said.

The missile issue came to a head when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko said last week that Japan's southern island of Okinawa was a huge base of

nuclear weapons. At a rare press conference, Gromyko rejected President Reagan's proposal for an interim agreement on limiting medium range nuclear weapons because it sought to include Soviet SS-20s based in Asia as well as those targeted on Western Europe.

Gromyko insisted that the missiles in Asia, estimated by Western military analysts at 108, were necessary for Soviet defence against U.S. nuclear weapons in Japan, South Korea and on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

"Japan and the waters surrounding Japan are stuffed with nuclear weapons and corresponding launch systems. The island of Okinawa is a huge base of nuclear weapons," Gromyko said.

But Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone denied the charge and Japan's ambassador to Moscow, Masuo Takashima, protested to Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov in person.

Japan plans to follow up the

protest and demand the withdrawal of the SS-20s from Asia at next week's talks, which will be led by Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Toshihiro Nakajima and Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa.

Security treaty

Japan's defence is guaranteed by the 23-year-old Japanese-American security treaty and backed up by the presence of 45,000 American forces on Japanese soil. Some of these troops are on Okinawa, which was returned to Japanese sovereignty by Washington in 1972.

As a matter of policy, the U.S. authorities neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons on their bases. The official Japanese government position is that the issue is covered by Japan's "three non-nuclear principles," non-possession, non-manufacture and non-entry of nuclear weapons. Nakasone reiterated this in

denying Gromyko's claim.

Any change permitting the United States to bring nuclear weapons into Japan would be subject to prior consultations between the two governments. The foreign ministry sources said they believed Moscow was trying to drive a wedge between Japan and the United States by giving ammunition to Japan's anti-nuclear protesters who have voiced opposition to Nakasone's hawkish defence stand. Before the SS-20 issue blew up, Japan and the Soviet Union clashed over Nakasone's remark in Washington in January that Japan should be like "an unsinkable aircraft carrier" to counter the Soviet military build-up in northern Asia. The remark, made in an interview with the Washington Post, not only embroiled him in a domestic controversy but also prompted a warning from Moscow.

Retaliatory strike

The official Soviet news agency

TASS said such a strategy would make Japan a target for a retaliatory strike which would surpass the disaster of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. This week, TASS accused Japan of conniving at a U.S. nuclear build-up in the Far East and advised Nakasone to reconsider what it called a risky policy. "Tokyo should understand that the Soviet Union, (and) the Socialist countries of Asia, will not remain indifferent to the plans of further drawing Japan into the nuclear strategy of the U.S.A.," TASS political commentator Boris Chelchovnik wrote.

The foreign ministry sources maintain there can be no significant improvement in Japanese-Soviet relations until Moscow recognises Japan's claim to four islands north of Hokkaido. The islands — Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu — were occupied by Soviet forces towards the end of the Pacific war

in 1945 and the issue has prevented the signing of a formal peace treaty between the two countries.

Moscow, however, insists that all outstanding territorial issues have been resolved. The sources said the stationing of about 10,000 Soviet troops on three of the islands since 1978 had only hardened Japan's attitude to the Soviet Union. "We would like to have good relations with the Soviet Union but the ball is in their court," one source said. The sources said the current strains in relations reflected the low priority the Soviet Union gave to Japan. Tokyo saw this as a mistake, since the Soviet Union could not conduct effective diplomacy in Asia without good relations with Japan.

As the Soviet Union continued to develop Siberia and Soviet Asia, it would come to rely more heavily on Japan, both for economic assistance and as a market, they said.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
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SPORTS

Borg exits with no regrets

TOKYO (R) — Five times Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg of Sweden bade farewell to professional tennis Sunday night saying that he did not regret anything.

After losing 6-3, 6-4 to arch rival Jimmy Connors in the final of the \$250,000 Suntory exhibition tournament in Tokyo, Borg expressed relief that it was all over.

"I don't regret anything," he said, adding that he was disappointed at the defeat but "bappy everything is over".

Before a capacity crowd of 14,700, Connors proved too fast for Borg in the 90-minute match, breaking the Swede's service twice in the first set while losing his serve once.

Connors capitalised on Borg's early errors and went to a 3-1 lead. Borg levelled to 3-3 but Connors took the next three games with rushes to the net and strong volleys.

The two players traded service breaks in the second set before Connors took the lead in the fourth game and held on for the match.

"I made a few important shots

at the right time," Connors said. "I felt no pressure... like always we had a good match. Unfortunately we won't have any more."

Connors earned \$110,000 for his win and Borg \$70,000. In the earlier consolation match, John McEnroe beat South African-born Johan Kriek 6-7, 7-5, 6-3 to take third place and \$40,000. Kriek collected \$30,000.

After the match Borg, accompanied by his wife Mariana, walked down a red carpet to a reviewing stand on the centre court to make his farewell speech.

"This time here I really enjoyed myself. The last 10 years, I've been a pro tennis player and enjoyed myself. I don't regret anything," he said.

"I've been very successful as a tennis player and I'm looking forward to doing different things in the future. It's difficult to retire completely from tennis. I'll play just for fun."

He left the court to a standing ovation.

In Hong Kong, John McEnroe expressed regret Monday over

Borg's retirement and said that he himself wanted to remain a top player for years to come.

The 24-year-old New Yorker was speaking at a press conference after he arrived from Tokyo to play an exhibition match against India's number one, Vijay Amritraj.

Of Borg's decision to quit, McEnroe said: "It is bad for the game and the public -- everybody -- and myself because I played many exciting matches against him."

McEnroe beat Borg in the 1981 Wimbledon final to break the Swede's five-year uninterrupted hold on the title and also had victories over him in the finals of the 1980 and 1981 U.S. Opens.

Asked about the pressures of being a tennis star, McEnroe said: "The pressure is a lot more than people realise and a lot more than I imagined it would be on me. People expect you to play at a high level."

But, asked how long he expected to remain at the top, he said: "I hope to be around for quite a while."

Juventus footballers figure prominently in Italy's squad

ROME (R) — European Soccer Cup favourites Juventus provide seven of the 18 players named Monday by Italian manager Enzo Bearzot for Saturday's vital European Championship match against Romania in Bucharest.

Roberto Bettega, 32, joins the six Juventus players who helped Italy win the World Cup in Spain last year and were included in the squad for the last European Championship qualifier against Cyprus last month.

Italy's record in Group Five is a humbling series of limp draws against Czechoslovakia, Romania and Cyprus and defeat in Bucharest could be a killer blow to their hopes of qualifying for the finals in France. The Romanians

have dropped only one point in three games.

But hope lies with the Juventus contingent. The club, boasting a crop of big names, have begun to answer their most scathing critics in recent weeks, reaching second place in the league and looking set for a place in the European Cup final after a 2-0 first leg semifinal victory over Poland's Widzew Lodz.

Paolo Rossi, top scorer in the World Cup, is back in form after a disappointing winter, scoring twice in Juventus's 5-0 league win over Ascoli Sunday.

The squad's impressive list of strikers also includes Inter's Sandro Altobelli, the league's top scorer with 14 goals in 26 matches. Altobelli's hunger for goals was

vividly illustrated Sunday when he angrily clipped West German team-mate Hansi Mueller for shooting at goal instead of passing.

Romania's strikers will almost certainly have to reckon with Claudio Gentile, whose surname belies a toughness which has earned him the reputation as one of the world's most formidable defenders.

Gentile is likely to be working alongside his World Cup final team-mate Giuseppe Bergomi, an inter defender with authority beyond his 19 years.

But the Italians will be looking for attacking flair to wipe out the memory of their 0-0 draw against Romania in Florence and 1-1 draw with Cyprus in Limassol.

More upsets on second day of World Hockey Cup

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The women's World Hockey Cup dish up more shocks on its second day here, with the top-seeded Dutch and England labelling to draws against unfancied opponents.

The Dutch, too nonchalant after the win against India in their opening match Sunday, failed to score against a gritty Scottish side, while England battled to a 1-1 draw against Canada.

Eleventh-seeded Argentina, who upset the West Germans Sunday, and fifth-seeded United States, who have taken three points from two games, are the unlikely leaders of the two groups in the 12-nation tournament.

The Dutch, whose late arrival here has raised questions about their endurance in the hot, sticky conditions, allowed the Scots to come back after a first half which they totally dominated.

The eighth-seeded Scots, beaten convincingly by the Americans in their opening game, could have further embarrassed the Dutch. They missed a golden chance to pull off a dramatic victory in the dying minutes.

England have left winger Jane Swinnerton to thank for their draw against the lower-ranked Canadians, who ran their opponents into the ground in the first half.

Swinnerton rammed home an equaliser 10 minutes from time after the Canadians had deservedly gone ahead from one of their 20 penalty corners just before half-time.

England, the third seeds, Tuesday take on the young Argentine side, buoyed by their 1-0 victory over the West Germans, while the Canadians play New Zealand who frittered away a host of chances in

a 1-1 draw Monday with the Soviet Union.

The Russians, who snatched an equaliser two minutes before the end, are the team most of the coaches fear because they have not been seen in international action since taking the bronze medal in the 1981 Buenos Aires World Cup.

West Germany, the cup winners, will find out Tuesday whether the Russians have improved.

In the other qualifying group, Australia, the only side in the tournament who seem to be playing to form, take on India after thrashing Wales 5-1 in the opening game Sunday.

The ninth-seeded Welsh highlighted the unpredictability of the tournament when they held the United States to a 1-1 draw, a result that keeps them in the hunt for a place in the semifinals.

Masters golf resumes on final day in strong winds

AUGUSTA, Georgia (R) — Golfers competing for the 47th Masters title were greeted by a strong wind Monday which promised to make scoring difficult in the final round at the Augusta National Course.

Four former champions, Craig Stadler, Ray Floyd, Tom Watson and Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, were bracketed within two strokes of the lead, along with Jodie Mudd who last year set an amateur record with a round of 67.

Japan's Tsuneyuki Nakajima was alone at 214, followed by a

pack of players including Australian Greg Norman, Tom Kite, Lee Trevino and Johnny Miller on 215 and Lanny Wadkins, Ben Crenshaw, Hal Sutton and Britain's Nick Faldo at even-par 216.

Despite the wind and the second consecutive day of sun, the course was still soft and wet from rain which prevented any play on Friday and forced the final round to be set back a day.

The conditions increase the advantage normally enjoyed by big hitters, and the leading seven players are all among the longer drivers in the game.

Davis beats Feeney

SAN REMO, Italy (R) — American Howard Davis beat British lightweight champion George Feeney on points in a one-sided non-title boxing match.

From the opening moves of the fight, the athletic Davis, world amateur lightweight champion in 1975 and Olympic champion at Montreal in 1976, was clearly superior to Feeney.

Boxing with graceful, confident style, Davis's low-hanging fists nonchalantly found their way through Feeney's high, tight guard while his loose, low guard invited but virtually impenetrable for the Englishman.

TENNIS TALK

Good balance

By Maureen Stallia

BALANCE IS so important for proper tennis strokes. It can make all the difference in a mishit shot without power, or a firm purposeful one. The good news is that it is relatively easy to correct, and effects instantaneous improvements.

For proper balance on the forehand, step down on your right foot before the ball bounces. After the bounce, step towards the net with your left foot, putting all your weight forward on it. After you've hit, hold for three seconds and check your feet, your (high) finish, and your balance. You should be comfortably able to stand like that for hours. Usually however, players find they are off balance, falling sideways or even backwards. Correct this by putting yourself from an incorrect stance to the correct one. As in most sports, the brain is fully cognitive of proper technique, but the muscles lag far behind. So you must patiently repeat the proper finish many times before the neurons get the message right.

The same applies for the backhand. Step down on your left foot before the bounce. After the bounce, step straight towards the net with the right foot and hold with the racket high for three seconds, making sure you are on a comfortable balance.

Rhythm is the product of footwork and balance. Dancers are the obvious example. But it is also evident in fine tennis players. In Amman, when people say: "He has a nice style," or, "I want my son to have a good style," they are actually alluding to perfect balance in his play.

Good balance on one stroke nearly assures the same on the next. If you are comfortably set after one shot it is simple to recover and prepare for the next. Since shots are usually missed when they are made on the run and with improper footwork, it makes sense that proper balance should be a goal for every serious tennis player.

Navratilova wins seventh consecutive tournament

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (R) — Martina Navratilova won her seventh straight tournament and 32nd match in a row Sunday when she recovered from a disastrous start to crush Tracy Austin 5-7, 6-1, 6-0 in the final of a \$200,000 women's tennis tournament.

Navratilova, 26, lost her service six times in the opening set, something which she said later had never happened to her before, but recovered superbly on the clay court of the Sea Pines Racquet Club to retain the title she won here a year ago.

"Despite losing the first set I didn't feel too bad because I knew I played loose and yet I could still have won it," she said. "I just couldn't get untracked on my serve in the first set, but then I began to take more time and told myself to relax."

In the second and third sets I began to move her around a lot. But neither of us played that well," the Czechoslovak-born American citizen said.

Austin, the 20-year-old American who has not won a tournament since last July, was also well below her best form in the opening set and dropped her serve five straight times until she held in the 11th game.

But thereafter Navratilova, who has not lost since falling to Christ Evert Lloyd in the final of the Australian Open last December, was in complete command. She opened up a 5-0 lead in the second set before dropping her serve for the seventh time, and then ran off the last seven games of the match.

She had failed to reach advantage point on her serve in the first set, but holding to love in the second game of the second set appeared to rejuvenate her and she was never again troubled.

The third-seeded Austin, a two-time U.S. Open champion playing in her first final of the year, was erratic throughout, lacking groundstroke depth and erring frequently off her usually consistent two-handed backhand. Austin was able to win only one of the first 12 points of the second set and fared even worse in the third when she took only eight points.

It was only the third set Navratilova has lost during her 32-match winning streak. The others were to Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia in New York last month and to 16-year-old Andrea Temesvari of Hungary in the quarter-finals here on Friday.

Navratilova won \$34,000 for winning. Austin got \$17,500.

Lendl claims WCT title

HOUSTON, Texas (R) — Top-seeded Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl capitalised on a deluge of forehand errors Sunday to defeat Australian Paul McNamee, 6-2, 6-0, 6-3, and win the \$100,000 first prize in a World Championship Tennis tournament.

The unseeded McNamee, 28, rallied briefly in the third set to pull even at 3-3, but Lendl regained momentum to win his fourth tournament of the year.

McNamee, who earned \$32,000 as runner-up, committed 36 forehand errors in the match, which lasted only 1½ hours.

"I wasn't expecting him to miss so many," Lendl admitted, "but he was trying to do a lot with his

forehand and he got himself into trouble."

Lendl, 23, broke McNamee at love to open the match, but his charge actually began in the sixth game when he fought through two deuces to win the first of nine games in a row, a stretch in which he broke McNamee's serve four consecutive times.

McNamee, trying to win his second tournament of the year, finally held in the first game of the third set, but Lendl held and then broke again for a 3-1 lead. It was at that point, the Australian started making mistakes, briefly letting his outgunned opponent back into the set.

However, the match was no contest the rest of the way and

Lendl won on first match point with a backhand crosscourt volley winner.

"He didn't have to work as hard as he should have to win that much money," McNamee said. "I know I'm a better player than that."

Sunday's victory, Lendl's first on clay this year, and his nearly flawless play while not losing a set all week indicates that the physical problems that contributed to three first-round losses in recent weeks are behind him.

"That's what pleased me the most, my physical condition," he said. "I am playing much better."

Lendl became the first player to win consecutive Houston titles since Rod Laver in 1961-62.

Jones returns wanting sponsor

BRANDS HATCH, England (R) — Alan Jones proved Sunday that he has certainly regained his appetite for motor racing—but he badly wants a sponsor.

The Australian former World Formula One Champion, now 36, marked his comeback from retirement with third place in the non-championship race of champions Sunday and promptly made a winners' rostrum appeal for cash to the £25 (\$38) a head spectators in the main grandstand.

"If they can afford to sit in that stand they can afford to sponsor the team," he quipped. Jones' observation underlined his fervent desire to drive a competitive car

which can take him back to the forefront of Grand Prix racing which he quit at the end of the 1981 season.

"Obviously you need sponsors to test and develop race cars," the Australian added. "That way you get faster and better."

Just two weeks after making his World Championship comeback with the Arrows team at Long Beach, California, Jones was back in the heart of the fray.

Although he finished well adrift of race winner Keke Rosberg of Finland and second placed American Danny Sullivan, Jones showed he has lost little of the panache which took him to the top. The Australian may still be without a contract a month after Arrows boss Jackie Oliver coaxed him back, but he will certainly appear in the French Grand Prix at Le Castellet next weekend, and in the rest of the races for this season.

While Jones was fast relearning the ropes, the 33-year-old Sullivan was equally rapidly making a name for himself.

Sullivan, handed his Formula One chance by Tyrrell chief Ken Tyrrell just before the season began, is maturing fast in the multi-million dollar sport.

He was 11th in Brazil, eighth at Long Beach and only half a second reigning champion Rosberg Sunday. World Championship points could now be just a race away.

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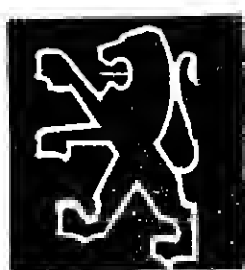
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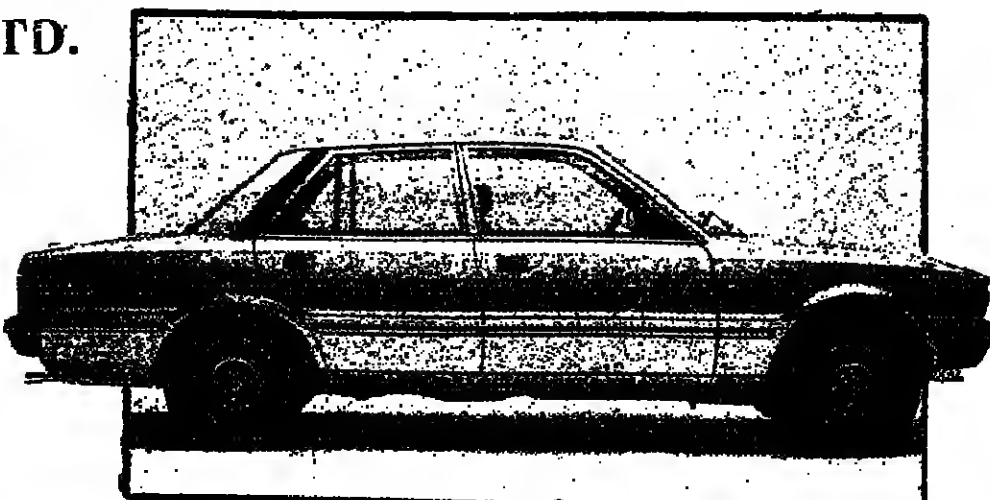
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World recession threatens Third World economies

In Indonesia, Mr. Malik said the leaders should realise the need for broad participation in efforts to solve the effects stemming from the crisis.

Oil prices were firm as most BNOG customers and suppliers agreed to its North Sea oil price proposals. Shell rose 14p to 502.

Among the leaders, Glaxo down 20p at 845, fell a further 45p despite higher interim pretax profits to record a 65p fall on the day.

One sterling	1.5215/25	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2346/39	Canadian dollars
	2.4205-15	West German marks
	3.7250/60	Dutch guilders
	2.0480-0500	Swiss francs
	48.16 20	Belgian francs
	7.2525/75	French francs
	1441.00/1442.00	Italian lire
	238.20/35	Japanese yen
	7.4750-4800	Swedish crowns
	7.1675-1725	Norwegian crowns
	8.5900/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	427.25-428.25	U.S. dollars

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"Who needs to jog? When I want my heart to beat faster, I read the electric bill."

LITTE

YASES

TENCED

ROMMIE

WHAT A SUCCESSFUL BACHELOR DOES, WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yomama 1 Jumbies: SWASH GUMMY AERATE FINITE

...MIST...

In another indication of rising confidence in the British economy, the Financial Times index of 30 leading shares closed at a record 675.0 on Friday.

Similar loans to set up earth stations have been made by the fund to Syria, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco (\$3.42 million each), Djibouti (\$3.76 million), Mauritania and South Yemen (\$4.12 million each) and Sudan (\$4.45 million).

But he stressed that he would wait for a full report from the Bank of Portugal on the country's finances before deciding on a course of action.

YOU NEVER KNOW HOW
YOU'RE GOING TO REACT
WHEN THE TEACHER
CALLS ON YOU...

Meanwhile, a two-day symposium on Swedish energy technology opens in Jakarta Monday.

Nigerian imports from West Germany include machinery, electrical equipment, vehicles, chemical products and foodstuffs.

Ras Badran is one of the key fields which Egypt hopes will boost its production from 700,000 b/d now to one million b/d by 1985.

THE Daily Greenford, 1000-1000

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WORLD

Nakasone faces rebuff

TOKYO (R) — Leaders of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) admitted Monday that its defeat in two key local elections amounted to a severe rebuff for Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and his policies.

Nakasone himself, criticised by left-wing opponents for his hard-line defence stand, said of the results from the two areas considered particularly vital in Sunday's voting for local bodies across the country: "I sincerely accept the realities and will pull myself together."

Nakasone indicated that the results had sharply reduced the chances of general elections being held this June.

He told reporters: "Lower House members should in principle complete their terms. I'm not thinking of a dissolution."

The four-year term of the Lower House is not due to end until June next year and an early poll had been predicted if the LDP did well in the key areas.

Instead, a socialist was elected governor in Hokkaido prefecture in northern Japan to end 24 years of conservative rule, while a socialist-communist candidate became governor of Fukuoka in the south where the LDP had reigned for 16 years.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Takao Fujinami said the LDP

accepted the outcome as a stern criticism of the four-month-old Nakasone administration.

Ex-prime minister Takeo Fukuda, a strong critic of Nakasone within the party, called the results utterly unexpected.

"Both the government and the Liberal Democratic Party should humbly reflect on them," he said.

Nakasone, who campaigned in both prefectures, said the results reflected local issues and could not immediately be linked to national politics.

But he added: "The present situation is stern enough to cause me to worry."

The LDP took some heart from the re-election of Tokyo Governor Shunichi Suzuki, who beat a joint candidate of the socialist and communist parties.

In 10 other races for governor, held along with elections for 2,500 local assembly seats in 44 prefectures, incumbents were returned in most cases.

In the assemblies, the LDP won 56 per cent of the seats, or 80 more than in the previous poll in 1979, mainly at the expense of the communists.

Australians asked to tighten their belts

CANBERRA (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke told Australians Monday they would have to tighten their belts to help the nation through its gravest economic crisis in 50 years.

Hawke said at the opening of a week-long national conference on the troubled economy that both employers and workers would have to recognise the need for restraint for at least the next year.

Hawke invited 100 government, business and union leaders to a "national economic summit", which his five-week-old government hopes will provide

broad agreement enabling it to make politically unpopular economic decisions.

The main aim of the conference, as outlined by both Hawke and treasurer Paul Keating, will be to recommend what sort of prices and incomes policy should replace the current wage freeze which expires on June 30.

Hawke said it was fitting that Parliament should be the venue of the conference that would seek a way out of what he called Australia's gravest economic crisis in 50 years.

The Prime Minister added there

would be no easy solutions to the crisis, in which the world recession and a four-year drought have led to an unemployment rate of just over 10 per cent and an inflation level of 11 per cent.

"It will mean a recognition and an acceptance of restraint by all sections of the community... a sense of realism of what can be achieved in the near future," Hawke said.

"There are no miracle cures, no overnight solutions."

Labour's landslide win at the polls on March 5 was based mainly on promises of heavy spending to

solve the nation's economic problems.

But Hawke has since reversed his position, and Keating Monday offered the conference three options it could consider on wages and prices. He did not recommend any one in particular.

One would end the wage freeze and cause higher prices, a second would give a three per cent wage rise later this year but allow for inflation of six per cent and the third would maintain the freeze to next April and chop inflation to between two and five per cent.

Afghan, Pakistani aides enter talks in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — Talks on a political solution to the Afghan crisis reopened in Geneva Monday between U.N. envoy Diego Cordovez and the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Cordovez, continuing discussions begun 10 months ago, formally resumed the indirect negotiations at a morning meeting with Sahibzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan. He was due later to meet Shah Mohammad Dost of Afghanistan.

Pakistan says three million Afghan refugees are camped on its territory. The U.N. is seeking an agreement on conditions for refugees to return home as part of a political settlement.

Cordovez told reporters that substantive issues would be tackled and perhaps even texts would be drafted during the scheduled two weeks of talks, but the discussions would be confidential.

Some diplomats say the talks could be crucial for an agreement leading to the withdrawal of Soviet troops sent to support President Babrak Karmal in Dec. 1979.

However, no U.N. officials have said they expect this to be the last set of negotiations and Cordovez says only that he hopes they can start work on the text of a settlement.

The teams do not meet face to face in the negotiations at the U.N.'s European headquarters because Pakistan does not recognise the Karmal government in Kabul.

Bomb paralyses London

LONDON (R) — An unexploded World War II bomb paralysed part of central London during the morning rush-hour Monday when police closed railway stations and sealed off roads and bridges.

Army bomb disposal experts were trying to defuse the bomb, which was dredged up with mud from the River Thames and lifted on to a barge Sunday night.

Police, who had no immediate details of the size of the bomb, sealed off approaches to the river, closing three bridges and nearby rail and underground stations. They also closed a 1.6 kilometre stretch of the Thames to river traffic and diverted all road traffic within a 800 metre radius of the barge.

"It is chaotic in that part of London," a London transport authority spokesman said. "Traffic has come to a virtual standstill."

A police spokesman said: "We have to take these precautions because with so many high bui-

ldings in the area people could be at risk from flying glass."

Illegal drug deals

LONDON (R) — Guerrilla groups in Northern Ireland help finance their campaigns of violence through illegal drug dealing, according to a report published Monday.

The report by an independent British body, the centre for contemporary studies, said that guerrilla groups on both the Catholic and Protestant sides were involved in the trade.

"Such is the demand for drugs and the lucrative nature of the trade that Northern Ireland is rapidly becoming one of the major centres for drug trafficking in Western Europe," it said.

The report written by William Boyes, a researcher in terrorism at Aberdeen University, Scotland, predicted that bartering drugs for guns would become a common feature of international terrorism.

Pravda publishes letters by Andropov's U.S. fans

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin daily Pravda gave its readers a second glimpse into Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov's mailbag, printing extracts from letters sent to him by Americans.

"I don't think you will listen to me, because I'm just a little American boy. But I've heard a lot about you and I think you will be a good leader of the USSR," wrote 14-year-old Andrew Broman from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Pravda said the letters showed that even if those in power in the United States were aggressive, the American people still had "common sense and a healthy practical approach."

The Communist Party daily published an earlier selection of letters to Andropov in mid-February. Andrew Broman's letter suggested that Andropov hold a summit with President Reagan, a proposal also floated in the earlier batch of mail.

Some foreign analysts in Moscow believe Andropov would like to hold a summit with Reagan but may face domestic opposition to the idea.

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Turkish ruler warns former politicians

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Gen. Kenan Evren Sunday warned former politicians to stay out of preparations for the promised return to parliamentary rule and called for completely new parties and leaders.

He told a large crowd in the western city of Denizli that former political leaders banned after the 1980 coup were playing "Byzantine games" to try to secure influence in new parties.

"Of course we won't let them play these games," the president said. "We will not hesitate to take measures to ensure that Turkey does not fall again into the hands of these people."

Gen. Evren said politicians active before the coup had allowed violence to go unchecked and had watched the country "tumble over the cliff."

He added: "All those people should go and in their place we want fresh parties and completely new people who will be able to command respect both at home and abroad."

New parties should be able to have a dialogue with each other and not regard each other as enemies as had happened in the past, Gen. Evren added.

The ruling National Security Council has promised a return to parliamentary government this autumn or next spring.

Already political parties active before the coup have been abolished and about 100 former top party leaders have been banned for 10 years from politics, including former prime ministers Suleyman Demirel and Bulent Ecevit.

U.S.-supplied artillery pieces rushed to Kampuchean border

BANGKOK (R) — Two giant C-5 Galaxy aircraft loaded with long-range guns landed in Bangkok Monday after a non-stop flight to Thailand from the United States.

Eight 155 mm howitzers from U.S. army stocks rolled from the holds and were immediately taken to the Kampuchean border, where Thailand said Vietnamese troops have intruded into its territory.

It was the second shipment of U.S. weapons to arrive here since the Reagan administration agreed to a request by Prime Minister

Prem Tinsulanonda for speeded-up deliveries last week.

The Thai army said fighting between Vietnamese troops and Kampuchean guerrillas spilled into its territory, with a Thai A-37 reconnaissance plane being shot down on Friday and Thai and Vietnamese forces fighting artillery battles. Hanoi has denied that its troops crossed into Thailand.

The M-108 howitzers, with shells boosted by rockets, are designed to counter Vietnam's Soviet-built long-range 130 mm artillery pieces.

Gen. Siyud Kerdphol, supreme commander of the Thai armed forces, said the missiles would be moved immediately to gun emplacements set up near the Kampuchean border.

The 21-hour flight from Travis air force base in California also brought ammunition and rocket propellants, U.S. embassy officials said.

On Saturday Redeye ground-to-air missiles arrived by plane. More of the highly accurate howitzers and other military supplies will arrive by ship next week.

Switzerland defends chemical firm against W. German charge

BERNE (R) — Switzerland Monday defended the chemical firm Hoffmann-Laroche against allegations that it had concealed information from the West German government on the whereabouts of two tonnes of highly-toxic dioxin waste.

The dioxin waste, from a disaster at a chemical plant owned by Hoffmann-Laroche at Seveso in Italy in 1976, was moved out of Italy last year to an undisclosed destination, and several European governments have been trying to find out where it is.

Bonn has criticised Hoffmann-Laroche for not saying what happened to the waste, a poison 10,000 times more toxic than

cyanide. The company has insisted it does not know.

Swiss Interior Minister Alpbons Egli told a news conference Monday that he was convinced, after examining Swiss records and talking with the company's management, that Hoffmann-Laroche had behaved honourably.

The only question was whether the firm should have agreed to be kept in the dark itself about the location of the waste, he said.

But he said the German firm Mannesmann, whose Italian subsidiary he said had undertaken to remove the waste from Seveso and store it in another European country under its own supervision, had clearly not kept its word.

The minister said the authorities were studying whether dioxin might be stored in Switzerland. In any case, a special permit would have been necessary to bring it into this country, he said.

Agreements on removing the waste ruled out Switzerland and Italy as possible dumping grounds, according to Hoffmann-Laroche.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Jordan Times Monday erroneously printed the number of people killed in the northeastern Indian state of Assam as 20,000. The correct figure is 2,000. We regret the mistake.



Five top commanders of the Contra opposition

Propaganda war looms over real war going on inside Nicaragua

By Bernd Debusmann

Retur

MANAGUA — As reports of heavy fighting in Nicaragua spread late last month, a businessman here received a telephone call from a worried associate in Argentina. "Are you safe?" asked the caller, "with all this fighting in the city?"

The caller was reluctant to accept that Managua was its usual sleepy, steamy self with business going on as usual.

But his question underscored the power of the propaganda war between Nicaragua's left-wing leaders and an assortment of foes spearheaded by the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

According to Nicaragua's ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), the FDN, backed by the United States, infiltrated some 2,000 well-equipped fighters into the country in the March invasion.

But while the Sandinists reported "the beasts are surrounded", the FDN trumpeted imminent victory. Anyone listening on March 22 to the insurgent's radio, 15th of September, a broadcasting station Western diplomats said was based in Honduras, could be forgiven for believing the end was near for the Sandinists or that their capital was ripe for the taking.

"We are the vanguard of the general insurrection," proclaimed Edgar Chamorro, a member of the FDN seven-man political leadership, who said he was broadcasting from inside embattled Managua.

"Within 60 days we shall be rejoining within free territory," declared another leader of the group, formed in Miami early last year.

Meanwhile in notes to the foreign ministry in Honduras, the Sandinists protested against Honduran attacks on border posts, saying they were part of U.S. plans to provoke open war between the two countries.

Honduras replied with charges of unspecified "acts of provocation" and insisted the Sandinists were massing troops along the border to raise tension.

The Sandinists countered the propaganda efforts of the FDN by

labelling them "Somocista beasts". Shared distaste for the former Anastasio Somoza and his National Guard united the motley opposition forces — from wealthy businessmen to Marxist-Leninist students — and toppled the right-wing leader at the end of a civil war in 1979.

"Equating anti-Sandinist opposition with Somoza and the National Guard is effective propaganda. Whether it is entirely true is another matter," said a Western diplomat.

Of the seven members of the FDN's political directorate, only two were prominent in the Somoza regime. The others include people like newcomer Adolfo Calero Fortocarrero, who opp-

— were entirely independent of outside support and influence.

The rightist leaders meanwhile appeared at a press conference in Miami and issued communiques in Honduras.

The Sandinists seized on a press conference by President Reagan to back up their contention that the U.S. is engaged in a campaign of psychological warfare to blaken the image of the Nicaraguan leadership.

To underscore his contention that the Soviet Union is spreading its influence in Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. president displayed a number of photographs taken by spy satellites, including one of Managua's Cesar Sandino international airport.



Sandinista troops on patrol inside Nicaragua

used the dictator and worked in Managua until late last year. The FSLN newspaper Barricada identified him as a "CIA agent in the sixties."

FDN member Lucia Cardenal de Salazar also has reasons unconnected with Somoza to dislike the Sandinists. Her husband Jorge, vice-president of the superior council of private enterprise (COSEP), was shot dead in Managua in 1980 and his wife blamed government security forces.

Washington, which portrays Nicaragua as a Marxist threat to Central America, has added to the war of words by suggesting the Nicaraguan rightists — unlike leftist guerrillas in Central America

The photographs showed the blurred outlines of three transport helicopters and an anti-aircraft battery all familiar sights to travellers arriving in Nicaragua.

"Reagan presents photographs of supposed sophisticated military bases as proof of the Soviet advance in Central America and our participation in the arms race," said Interior Minister Tomas Borge.

"He shows anti-aircraft guns and three helicopters which are no threat to the security of the United States even if they had the range to get there. I think his grand proof shows lack of respect not only for Nicaragua but also (for the intelligence) of his own people."

NEWS IN BRIEF

8 squatters dead, 26 hurt in fight

CAPE TOWN (R) — Eight people were killed and 26 were injured in fighting between rival groups at the crossroads Black squatter camp near here, police said Monday. Witnesses said gangs were used in Sunday's violence.

Some of the victims were believed to have been killed in a fire which gutted shops, part of a primary school, and destroyed five vehicles. Police, fire engines and ambulances were called in from the Cape Town area after word of the battle spread.

6 bombs exploded in southern Corsica

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Six bombs exploded in southern Corsica Monday, damaging apartments and houses owned by foreigners or people from mainland France, police said. The explosions, in the small town of Gargese, cause no casualties. They were the latest in a wave of violence on the French Mediterranean island. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Last Thursday night nine explosions damaged apartments and cars in Ajaccio, the Corsican capital. A fifth blast virtually destroyed a restaurant being built in Pietracorbara, near Bastia, northern Corsica.

Finland's coalition formally resigns

HELSINKI (R) — Finland's ruling coalition formally resigned Monday and talks began on forming a new government following recent general elections. President Mauno Koivisto accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Kalevi Sorsa's cabinet of Social Democrats, centrists and Swedish People's representatives and asked it to stay in caretaker capacity. Party leaders said a consensus had not yet been reached on which parties should enter the next cabinet.

Call to defuse C. American bomb

COZUMEL, Mexico (R) — The presidents of Colombia and Mexico have called for immediate negotiations to defuse what they called the "dangerous situation" in Central America. In a communique signed here Sunday, President Belisario Betancur of Colombia and President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico "emphasised the imperative need of activating dialogue and negotiations."

"All that occurs in Central America affects Colombia and Mexico and peace in the area is of vital interest for the security of both nations," the two leaders said after several hours of talks.

Vicar suggests plastic tombstones

LONDON (R) — A vicar in central England has come up with an idea for cutting the rising cost of dying: Plastic gravestones. "Headstones can cost hundreds of pounds," the Rev. Maurice Rhodes wrote in his Walsall parish magazine. Calling for a manufacturer to develop a prototype, he added: "I am sure a plastic alternative, perhaps designed to look like marble, would be immensely popular and inexpensive."

Haiti tallies election results

GONAIVES, Haiti (R) — Haitian officials tallied results Monday in Haiti's first municipal elections in 25 years amid charges of fraud in one major township. Scattered electoral reports indicated 10 to 40 per cent of eligible voters cast ballots Sunday to choose mayors and city councillors in three of Haiti's nine provinces.

Shirts become waste paper en route

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian customs authorities stopped a \$342,000 shipment of shirts in Dubai when most of the crates were found to contain waste paper, dolls' clothes and sand. The national news agency Antara said Monday an unidentified Indian national had been arrested and one customs official suspected of being involved in the swindle was under investigation.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—My problem is, I never know how to respond to an opening bid when I have a long suit of seven cards or more. I have referred to at least 10 books on bidding and none have discussed the problem fully. Here is an example of my dilemma:

♠ A J 10 9 8 7 x x
♥ x x x
♦ x
♣ x

Partner opened the bidding with one diamond and I jumped to four spades. Partner raised to six spades with:

♠ x
♥ A x x
♦ A K x x x
♣ A Q J x

We were donked and went down two tricks. Should my response have been three spades or one spade? Please help? — Shirley Dunge, Buffalo, N.Y.

(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—First and foremost, any jump to three or four of a major suit over partner's opening bid of one of a minor is preemptive. Like all preemptive bids, the hands contain little or no defensive values. And the bid is never made with two first round controls—i.e., two aces, or an ace and a void. That is the way you miss slam.

Secondly, the quality requirements for the suit are somewhat flexible. If you have no fit with partner, your hand should not have more than 1½ losers in the trump suit, presuming that you are going to find no more than a singleton in partner's hand. With some sort of a fit for partner, you might have two losers in the suit.

Lastly, you make the jump on a hand with which you have no slam ambitions. If your hand has the potential

for a slam, you should respond at the one-level.

Preemptive bids at the three-level normally show a seven-card suit. If you jump to the four-level, you should usually have an eight-card suit. However, I can think of some exceptions. For example, suppose that partner were to open one diamond and you held:

♠ A Q J x x x
♥ x x
♦ J x x x
♣ x

Because of the fit for partner's suit, I would bid four spades rather than three. However, had partner's opening been one club, three spades would suffice.

Much the same reasoning applies to the hand you give. Over a one diamond opening bid from partner, I would bid only three spades, despite my eight-card suit. But switch my red-suit holdings around so that my hand becomes:

♠ A J 10 9 8 7 x x
♥ x x
♦ x x x
♣ x

Now the fact that my fragment is in the suit partner opened makes it less likely that the defenders can cash enough tricks to beat me at the opening gun. Therefore, I would bid four spades on this hand.

If I did get carried away and responded four spades with your hand, I would expect partner to pass with his holding. He has no reason to believe that you won't lose two trump tricks, nor does he have enough winners to cover your probable five side suit losers.

The reason why you don't see too much on this subject in books is that it is relatively rare that you hold an eight-card suit. Bridge writers have enough to worry about without devoting too much attention to freak distributions.

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